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**Class No.....**

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**PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE**  
**MEETINGS OF THE CHAMBER OF PRINCES**  
**(NARENDRA MANDAL)**

*Held at Delhi on the 25th January 1926 and following days*





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## AGENDA.

### CHAMBER OF PRINCES (NARENDRA MANDAL).

January 1926.

1. Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in connection with the death of Her late Majesty Queen Alexandra.

1-A. Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in connection with the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and the Maharaja of Kashmir.

2. To receive a statement from His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala regarding his work as a representative of India at the meeting of the League of Nations in 1925.

3. To consider the report of the Standing Committee regarding Tours and Visits abroad of Ruling Princes and Chiefs.

4. To consider the report of the Standing Committee regarding Radio broadcasting in British India and its application to Indian States.

5. To consider the report of the Standing Committee regarding wireless telegraphy and telephony in Indian States.

6. To consider the report of the Standing Committee regarding assessment of compensation for land required for railways in Indian States.

7. To consider the report of the Standing Committee regarding the amendment of the First Regulations so as to exclude Jamnia and Nimkhera from the list of lesser States in Central India entitled to vote for a Representative Member in the Chamber of Princes.

8. To consider the report of the Standing Committee regarding the amendment of Regulation 8 of the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members in the Chamber of Princes.

9. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner regarding the appointment of a Committee to consider (i) the best means of safeguarding the interests of Indian States in cases of enquiry into matters of common interest to British India and the States, and (ii) what machinery should be devised for giving effect to the proposal in paragraph 311 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report regarding joint deliberations.

10. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner regarding the amendment of Rules 3 and 4 of the Rules for the conduct of business in the Chamber so as to make it permissible for subjects to be included in and circulation of, Agenda, respectively two months and six weeks before the meeting of the Chamber.

11. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala regarding relief from double income-tax to subjects of Indian States.

12. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar regarding the provision of funds for the office of the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes and other incidental expenditure.

13. Election of the Chancellor.

14. Election of the Standing Committee.

## WORK-CARD.

### CHAMBER OF PRINCES (NARENDRA MANDAL):

(To be held at Metcalfe House, Delhi, at 11 a.m. daily).

**January 1926.**

**Monday, January 25th.**

1. His Excellency after taking his seat will deliver an address.
2. Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in connection with the death of Her late Majesty Queen Alexandra. (*Agendum No. 1*).
3. Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in connection with the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and the Maharaja of Kashmir. (*Agendum No. 1-A*).

**Tuesday, January 26th.**

1. His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala will present a statement regarding his work at the meeting of the League of Nations in 1925. (*Agendum No. 2*).
2. Report of the Standing Committee regarding tours and visits abroad of Ruling Princes and Chiefs. (*Agendum No. 3*).
3. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner regarding the appointment of a Committee to consider questions of—
  - (i) safeguarding the interests of Indian States in cases of enquiry by a Royal Commission or otherwise into matters of common interest to British India and the States, and
  - (ii) what machinery should be devised for giving effect to the proposal in paragraph 311 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report regarding joint deliberations. (*Agendum No. 9*).
4. Report of the Standing Committee regarding Radio broadcasting in British India and its application to Indian States. (*Agendum No. 4*).
5. Report of the Standing Committee regarding wireless telegraphy and telephony in Indian States. (*Agendum No. 5*)

**Wednesday, January 27th.**

1. Report of the Standing Committee regarding assessment of compensation for land required for railways in Indian States. (*Agendum No. 6*).
2. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner regarding the amendment of Rules 3 and 4 of the Rules for the conduct of business in the Chamber of Princes. (*Agendum No. 10*).
3. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala regarding relief from double income-tax to subjects of Indian States. (*Agendum No. 11*).
4. Report of the Standing Committee regarding the amendment of the First Regulations so as to exclude Jamnia and Nimkhera from the list of lesser States in Central India entitled to vote for a Representative Member in the Chamber of Princes. (*Agendum No. 7*).

**Thursday, January 28th.**

1. Report of the Standing Committee regarding the amendment of Regulation 8 of the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members in the Chamber of Princes. (*Agendum No. 8*).
2. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar regarding the provision of funds for the office of the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes and other incidental expenditure. (*Agendum No. 12*).
3. Election of the Chancellor. (*Agendum No. 13*).
4. Election of the Standing Committee. (*Agendum No. 14*).

**Friday, January 29th.**

1. Reply of the Members and Representative Members to His Excellency's address.
2. His Excellency the Viceroy will conclude the proceedings.

**Saturday, January 30th.**

**Free day.**

## **Memorandum explanatory of Agendum No. 1.**

The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner :—

That the Chamber of Princes records its profound sense of grief at the demise of Her Imperial Majesty Queen Alexandra whose revered memory will ever be cherished with grateful affection throughout India, and requests His Excellency the President to be so kind as to convey to Their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress its loyal and respectful condolence on this melancholy occasion and its deepest sympathies in the great affliction and the grievous loss which Their Imperial Majesties have sustained.



**Memorandum explanatory of Agendum No. 1-A.**

The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner :—

That the Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow at the sad demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharajah of Kashmir and the Maharajah Scindia of Gwalior and deplores the loss sustained by the Ruling Princes of India by the passing away of two of their most distinguished Brother Princes.

This Chamber further offers its deepest sympathies and condolence to the bereaved Families.





## Memorandum explanatory of Agendum No. 3.

### *Tours and visits abroad of Ruling Princes and Chiefs.*

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Paragraph 4 (1) of the Resolution of the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department No. 587-R., dated the 29th August 1921, on the above subject reads as follows :—

“ The Government of India would be glad if Rulers of States, who wish to travel abroad, would inform them of the period for which they will be absent from India, and of the arrangements which they propose for the administration of their States during this period.”

In March 1922 His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner pointed out that, as this subparagraph did not appear in the summary laid before the Committee of Princes in September 1919, and approved by the Conference of Ruling Princes and Chiefs in November 1919, it ought not to have been included in the Resolution until the Chamber of Princes had been consulted. The point had been inadvertently omitted from the original summary, but it was one which, in one form or another, had for many years formed part of the political practice of the Government of India.

2. The question of the retention or otherwise of the above mentioned paragraph was considered at the meeting of the Standing Committee held on the 18th August 1924 when the Committee recommended the following amendment :—

“ The Government of India would appreciate it if Rulers of States, who wish to travel abroad (and desire to obtain facilities during their travels

from the Secretary of State for India), would inform them of the approximate period for which they are likely to remain absent from India and of the arrangements which they propose to make for the conduct of official business with the Government of India during their absence.”

3. The draft paragraph as approved by the Standing Committee implied that intimation as regards the proposal to travel outside India need only be given by those Princes who wished to obtain special facilities. There are, however, special reasons which render the supply of the information desirable in all cases, quite apart from the consideration of arrangements for honours, privileges or customs facilities, and the matter was accordingly referred back to the Standing Committee at its meeting in February 1925, with a view to the deletion of the clause enclosed in brackets in the proposed paragraph. The Committee agreed to the omission of the words and the proposed amendment accordingly reads as follows :—

“ The Government of India would appreciate it if Rulers of States, who wish to travel abroad, would inform them of the approximate period for which they are likely to remain absent from India, and of the arrangements which they propose to make for the conduct of official business with the Government of India during their absence.”

4. The recommendation of the Standing Committee is now for the consideration of the Chamber of Princes.



Memorandum Explanatory of Agendum No. 4

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*Radio Broadcasting in British India and its application to Indian States.*

In accordance with the decision arrived at at the Session of the Chamber of Princes on the 19th November 1924, the question was considered by the Standing Committee on the 19th February 1925, in the light of a memorandum (annexure) which had been prepared by the Director of Wireless. The Committee accepted the suggestion put forward in paragraph 8 of the Director's memorandum, the arrangements to be on a reciprocal basis as outlined in paragraph 7, it being understood that

the respective States will exercise control over the conditions of the licenses granted by them. The Committee suggested that the Indian States should accept the license fee of Rs. 12, of which Rs. 10 (which is the minimum estimate for an efficient service) should accrue to the Broadcasting Company. They felt that as they had no experience of Radio Broadcasting, any conclusions arrived at might require revision in the light of future experience.



## Memorandum by the Director of Wireless regarding Broadcasting in India.

“Broadcasting” means the transmission from a single radio-telephone station of broadcast matter\* which may be received by any number of separate broadcast receivers established within the range of the transmitter.

The range of a broadcasting station depends primarily on its power, but the quality of the broadcast receiver directly governs the distance from the broadcasting station over which the former will be efficient. All broadcast receivers are comparatively small and portable; they may be arranged either with an outside aerial or with a frame which may vary from those which are less than a foot square and fixed to the receiver to those eight or ten feet square. Broadcast receivers require no power beyond a small accumulator battery and cannot be used as transmitters. As an indication of range, it may be stated that the London Broadcasting station transmitting with six kilowatts has a reliable range to the cheapest form of crystal receiver of about 30 miles while the same receiver will read a 25 kilowatt station up to about 200 miles reliably. The  $1\frac{1}{2}$  kilowatt transmitter at Calcutta is readable to a broadcast receiver costing about Rs. 300 in Lahore and Rawalpindi.

2 In British India the establishment, maintenance and working of all privately owned radio stations whether for transmission or reception is controlled by licenses under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, and the import of radio apparatus is only permitted under license under the Sea Customs Act. At present a customs duty of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent is levied on all such apparatus imported into British India and an annual fee of Rs. 10 is charged for every import license and for every license to establish, maintain and work any radio transmitter or receiver.

3. At present three Radio Clubs in British India are licensed to broadcast, but in order to place broadcasting in British India on a commercial basis it is proposed:—

- (a) to license one company (registered in British India with rupee capital) to provide *broadcasting services* for the whole of British India;
- (b) to grant this company a license for 10 years with a *monopoly* for *providing broadcasting services* for the first five years only;
- (c) to place no restrictions on and permit no monopoly as regards the manufacture and sale of *broadcast receivers* in British India nor on the type or country of origin of such receivers and their component parts as may be imported into British India;
- (d) to issue licenses for broadcast receivers from Head Post Offices on demand and on payment of an annual fee of Rs. 10 without undue formality and without restriction as to the age, sex or nationality of the applicant, but subject to certain conditions (See Appendix A);

(NOTE.—These licenses are already in existence and many have been issued for receivers in British India, but since they are not valid in Indian States none are issued in respect of receivers therein.)

- (e) to afford the Government full control over broadcasting stations in order to prevent their misuse, ensure a satisfactory programme and enable them to be taken over in emergency, also to afford the Local Government of the Province in which a broadcasting station is located certain necessary powers especially as regards censorship (See Appendix B);
- (f) to strictly define the matter which may be broadcasted (See Appendix C);

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\*“Broadcast matter” means concerts, lectures, educational subjects, weather reports, theatrical entertainments and any other matter (including news and other information) from time to time approved by the Postmaster-General. (British Broadcasting License—Definition).

- (g) to hand over to the broadcasting company 80 per cent. of all fees for licenses granted for the erection, maintenance and working of wireless telegraphs in British India, whether broadcast receiver licenses or otherwise;
- (h) to make such other provision either by increasing customs duty on receivers and their components and giving a share to broadcasting company or otherwise as may be found necessary to ensure that the income of the broadcasting company is sufficient to provide adequate programmes and give a reasonable commercial return to the company.

4. The establishment and operation of broadcasting service to provide adequate programmes is a costly business. The capital cost of a broadcasting station in India including plant, buildings, masts and land, and capable of efficiently serving an area of 200 miles radius to first class broadcast receivers should not exceed Rs. 1,00,000. By far the largest proportion of the annual cost is incurred in provision of programmes, and taking all things into consideration it is estimated that a broadcasting station as indicated above would entail an annual outlay of Rs. 30,000 in respect of staff, apparatus and plant, etc., and Rs. 1,50,000 in respect of the provision of programmes. Excluding interest on capital, etc., it would, therefore, require some 22,500 broadcast receiver licenses to be issued in the area served by the broadcasting station in order to meet the total annual cost of the station.

5. The revenue of a broadcasting company must mainly depend on the number of licenses which are granted (*vide* 3 (g) above). Other sources of revenue may be derived from the broadcasting of advertisements, the payment for matter broadcasted, and royalties or fees paid to the broadcasting company by manufacturers of broadcast receivers.

6. Therefore, it is necessary that every person who listens to broadcasting stations should pay a fee for his receiver and that a share of this fee should accrue to the broadcasting company.

7. In many parts of British India where a broadcasting station might be erected its programmes will be easily readable in Indian States, and *vice versa*. It therefore appears desirable that there should be some arrangement whereby listeners-in in Indian States contribute to the revenue of broadcasting stations in British India, and *vice versa*.

8. It is therefore suggested that Indian States should:—

- (a) grant broadcast receiver licenses subject to such conditions as the State thinks fit, observing that the procedure and conditions applicable to British India would possibly be equally applicable in most Indian States, with such modifications as may be found necessary;
  - (b) charge an annual fee for each broadcast receiver licenses;
  - (c) pay a share of this fee to any broadcasting station which although operating in British India does in fact serve an Indian State.
-

## APPENDIX A.

### Form of Broadcast Receiver License.

(The conditions are printed at foot of the Form.)

{W. T. 102.)  
LICENSE.

Registered No.....

#### INDIAN TELEGRAPH ACTS, 1882—1914.

#### License to establish a Wireless Receiving Station.

(Broadcast Receiver.)

M.....

(Name in full)

of.....

(Address in full)

is hereby authorised (subject in all respects to the conditions set forth below)\* to erect and work a wireless station for the purpose of receiving messages at.....

(Location of the station)

for a period ending on the last day of the month of.....192.....The payment of the license fee of Rs. 10 is hereby acknowledged.

Registered No. of Expired License.....

Dated .....day of ..... 192.....

Date stamp.

Issued on behalf of the }  
Director-General of }  
Posts and Telegraphs. }

.....



Postmaster.

Signature of Licensee .....

#### CONDITIONS.

1. The Licensee shall not permit the station to be used for any purpose other than that of receiving messages.
2. The station shall not be used in such a manner as to cause interference with the working of other stations. In particular, reaction must not be used to such an extent as to energise any neighbouring aerial.
3. An aerial which crosses over or is liable to fall or to be blown upon any telegraph or telephone line or overhead power wire (including electric lighting and tramway wires) must be guarded to the reasonable satisfaction of the owner of the power line or lines concerned so as to prevent any damage being done in the event of a break occurring.
4. The Licensee shall not divulge or allow to be divulged to any person (other than a duly authorised officer of the Government of India or a competent legal tribunal) or make any use whatsoever of any message received by means of the licensed station other than time signals, musical or other programmes and messages transmitted for general reception, under the penalties specified in the Telegraph Act.
5. The station shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times by any officer duly authorised by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs. At the request of such authorised officer this license shall be produced for inspection.
6. This license may be cancelled by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs at any time either by specific notice in writing sent by registered post to the Licensee at the address shown hereon, or by means of a notice published in the *Gazette of India* addressed to all holders of wireless receiving licenses, and will be cancelled on the breach of any of the foregoing conditions. In the event of cancellation no part of the fee will be returned.
7. Any change of address must be promptly communicated to the Issuing Postmaster and the license returned in order that the necessary amendments may be made thereon.
8. The location of the station may be altered temporarily at the discretion of the Licensee, but if it is intended that the station shall leave the original location for a period exceeding one month, the Licensee must inform the Issuing Postmaster and return this license for endorsement.
9. If it is desired to continue to maintain the station after the date of expiration, this license must be renewed *within fourteen days*. Heavy penalties are prescribed by the Indian Telegraph Acts, 1882—1914, on conviction of the offence of establishing a wireless station without the license of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.
10. The Licensee shall not assign, underlet or otherwise dispose of this license to any other person or body.
11. The Licensee shall at all times indemnify the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, India, against all actions, claims and demands which may be brought or made by any corporation, company or person in respect of any injury arising from any act licensed or permitted in this license.



## APPENDIX B.

## Outline of Control over Broadcasting Stations.

The license for broadcasting stations will contain provisions entitling the Government to :—

- (a) inspect broadcasting stations ;
- (b) take over, operate or close down the station or impose a complete censorship in times of emergency ;
- (c) require the broadcasting station to maintain a broadcast receiver for the use of Government ;
- (d) impose a complete or partial prohibition or pre-censorship either generally or specially at any time ;
- (e) issue any special or general instructions as regards the matter which may or may not be broadcasted or as to the persons who may or may not broadcast ;
- (f) specify the sources from which news and information in the nature of news may be obtained and the times of broadcasting the same although other broadcast matter will be allowed at any time ;
- (g) terminate the license at any time in the event of improper or inefficient use of the broadcasting station ;
- (h) require the broadcasting station to broadcast free of cost to Government weather reports, forecasts, Government notices and communiqués and educational propaganda or other Government matter provided the time taken out of the ordinary programme does not exceed 10 per cent.

2. The Local Government of the Province in which the broadcasting station is located will also be entitled to exercise the rights set out in (b), (c), (d), (e) and (h) above.

## APPENDIX C.

## Programmes.

## I.—ENTERTAINMENT BROADCASTING.

*Compulsory.*—

Weather Reports and Forecasts . . . . .	[Note (1)]
Government Communiqués and Notices . . . . .	[Note (2)]

*Optional.*—

Concerts and other Musical Items . . . . .	...
Theatrical entertainments and Items . . . . .	...
Students' Programmes . . . . .	[Note (3)]
Lectures, Readings or Addresses, provided the subject is entirely non-political . . . . .	...
Children's Programmes . . . . .	...
News . . . . .	[Note (4)]
Extracts from Newspapers and periodicals . . . . .	[Note (5)]
Speeches, provided that Government has previously approved of the speech and/or the Speaker . . . . .	...
Advertisements . . . . .	[Note (6)]
Any other matter subject to the general or special per- mission of Government . . . . .	...

## II.—TOLL BROADCASTING.

*Compulsory.*—

Government Communiqués and Notices . . . . .	[Note (2)]
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*Optional.*—

Market and Exchange Quotations and Reports . . . . .	...
News . . . . .	[Note (4)]
Commercial and Financial Information . . . . .	...
Advertisements . . . . .	[Note (6)]

NOTES.—(1) Will be supplied by Director-General, Observatories.

(2) If so required by Government.

(3) Strictly confined to educational matter of a non-political nature.

(4) Strictly confined to press messages supplied by specified News Agencies approved by Government.

(5) If such extracts are in the nature of the news of comments on news they must be subject to previous arrangement with the News Agencies in each case. Licensees are not permitted to broadcast any extracts from newspapers on behalf of the newspaper concerned either gratuitously or on payment without the previous concurrence of the approved News Agencies.

(6) In order that the standard of programme may be maintained the amount of advertisement matter permitted shall not normally exceed 10 per cent. of any programme as regards the time taken to broadcast,



MEMORANDUM EXPLANATORY OF AGENDUM NO. 5.

*Wireless telegraphy and telephony in Indian States.*

The summary (column V) as approved by the Chamber of Princes at the meeting of November 1924 was circulated for the views of Local Governments, Political Officers and Darbars. As a result certain modifications were made in the summary (column VI) which was placed before the Standing Committee at their meeting held in September 1925. The Committee made certain recommendations and suggested that their report on this item should be included in the agenda for the forthcoming session of the Chamber of Princes. All the recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government of India and the summary thus amended (column VII) is for the approval of the Chamber.

# WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AND TELEPHONY IN INDIAN STATES.

## I.

### SUMMARY AS ORIGINALLY PREPARED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

It is necessary that the Government of India should retain general control and supervision over all wireless installations in India, first, because it is responsible for seeing that the provisions of the International Radio Convention are observed throughout the country, and secondly, because, it is in the interests of all parties that co-ordination should be maintained and that such regulations as are necessary to avoid mutual interference are generally enforced. Subject to such control, it is the policy of the Government of India to encourage and assist the development of wireless telegraphy and telephony in Indian States.

2. The nature of the control which the Government of India propose to exercise is as follows :—

- (a) *Wireless Stations owned by a State and required solely for communication within a State.*—Government should be informed, before they are erected, of the purpose for which they are required. The approval of Government should be obtained to their sites (or areas), type and power. The object of these provisions is to ensure that suitable waves are allotted and that the set is capable of using the waves that Government can make available and is otherwise technically suitable.
- (b) *Wireless Stations owned and operated by Companies or private individuals under license, and required solely for communication within a State.*—It is suggested that all licenses should be issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs. Alternatively Government is willing to agree that all applications for licenses should be addressed in the first instance to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs. If he sees no objection to granting the license, he will forward the application with his remarks to the Indian State concerned which will issue the license. The form of the license issued need not necessarily follow that in use in British India, except with regard to the purely wireless conditions. A copy of these conditions is annexed. On the issue of a license by an Indian State, a copy should be furnished to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, who will, if necessary, issue an import license under the Sea Customs Act.
- (c) *Wireless Stations, whether owned by a State or licensed within a State, required for communication with a station in British India.*—Such Stations can only be permitted with the special sanction of the Government of India, and the conditions will be regulated according to the circumstances of each separate

## II.

### SUMMARY REVISED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER OF PRINCES IN THEIR MEETING IN NOVEMBER 1922.

The reasons why the Government of India should exercise general control and supervision over all wireless installations in India are two in number. First, they are responsible for seeing that the provisions of the International Radio Convention are observed throughout the country, and secondly, it is in the interests of all parties that co-ordination should be maintained and that such regulations as are necessary to avoid mutual interference are generally enforced. Subject to such control it is the policy of the Government of India to encourage and assist the development of wireless telegraphy and telephony in Indian States.

2. The nature of the control which the Government of India propose to exercise is as follows :—

- (a) *Wireless Stations owned by a State and required solely for communication within a State.*—Government desire to be informed, before they are erected, of the general purpose for which they are required (e.g., the distance over which communication is desired, etc.). The consent of Government should be obtained to their approximate positions, type and power. The object of these provisions is to ensure that suitable waves are allotted and that the set is capable of using the waves that Government can make available and is otherwise technically suitable.
- (b) *Wireless Stations owned and operated by Companies or private individuals under license and required solely for communication within a State.*—Applications for licenses would be addressed in the first instance through the Durbar and Political Department to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs. If he sees no technical objection to granting the license, he will return the applications with his remarks to the Indian State concerned which will issue the license. The form of the license issued need not necessarily follow that in use in British India, except with regard to the purely wireless conditions. A copy of these conditions is annexed. On the issue of a license by an Indian State a copy should be furnished to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, who will, if necessary, issue an import license under the Sea Customs Act.
- (c) *Wireless Stations, whether owned by a State or licensed within a State, required for communication with a Station in British India.*—Such Stations can only be erected with the special sanction of the Government of India, and the conditions will be regulated

## III.

### SUMMARY REVISED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE AT THEIR MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1923.

As it is necessary that the provisions of the International Radio-telegraph Convention\* should be observed throughout India, it is in the interests of all the parties that in all matters with respect to Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony co-ordination should be maintained, and to attain such co-ordination regulations are required in order to avoid mutual interference. With this end in view the following principles are agreed upon :—

I. *Wireless stations owned and operated by a State or by companies or private individuals under license, and required solely for communication within a State.*—In order to ensure that suitable waves are allotted and that the station is capable of using the waves that Government can make available and is otherwise technically suitable, the Government of India desire to be informed before the station is erected :—

- (a) of the general purpose for which the station is required,
- (b) of the distance over which communication is desired,
- (c) of the approximate location, i.e., town, village, etc.

2. After receiving this information the Government of India will be in a position to advise regarding the suitability of the location, the type of installation required and the power necessary, and to allot suitable waves to each station.

NOTE.—Unless such advice is obtained and followed there is a risk that stations might be erected in totally unsuitable situations or that the apparatus might be quite inadequate for the purpose in view. In either case the station would probably prove to be a failure. On the other hand, too powerful a station might be erected involving unnecessary expenditure and probably causing undesirable interference with other stations.

3. The concurrence of the Government of India is essential in regard to type of installation and power, Government should also be consulted before any alterations in sites, type or power are introduced.

II. *Wireless stations, whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required for communication with a station in British India.*—Such stations can only be erected under special agreement with the Government of India and the conditions will be regulated according to the circumstances of each case, inter-communication being a matter of reciprocal arrangement.

NOTE.—The question of inter-communication between States will be a matter of mutual arrangement between the States and the Government of India. The possibility of such inter-communication will be borne in mind when wave-lengths are allotted.

III. The following are the conditions generally applicable to all wireless stations in British India and in Indian States :—

- (a) Qualified operators should be employed wherever a transmitting set is operated, except possibly in the case of wire-

\* See Appendix, Note I.

## IV.

### SUMMARY REVISED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE AT THEIR MEETING IN JANUARY 1924.

As it is necessary that the provisions of the International Radio-telegraph Convention\* should be observed throughout India, it is in the interests of all the parties that in all matters with respect to Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony co-ordination should be maintained. To attain such co-ordination regulations are required in order to avoid mutual interference. With this end in view, the following principles should be observed :—

I. (1) *Wireless stations whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required solely for communication within a State.*—In order to ensure that suitable waves are allotted and that the station is capable of using the waves that Government can make available and is otherwise technically suitable, the Government of India desire to be informed before the station is erected :—

- (a) of the general purpose for which the station is required,
- (b) of the distance over which communication is desired,
- (c) of the approximate location, i.e., town, village, etc.

(2) After receiving this information the Government of India will, having regard to the location, be in a position to advise in respect of the type of installation required and the power necessary and to allot suitable waves to each station.

NOTE.—Unless such advice is obtained and followed there is a risk that stations might be erected in totally unsuitable situations or that the apparatus might be quite inadequate for the purpose in view. In either case the station would probably prove to be a failure. On the other hand, too powerful a station might be erected involving unnecessary expenditure and probably causing undesirable interference with other stations.

(3) It is essential, with a view to maintain co-ordination and to avoid mutual interference, that there should be previous consultation with the Government of India in regard to installation and power and before any alterations in location, type and power are introduced.

II. *Wireless stations, whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required for communication with a station in British India.*—Such stations can only be erected and worked under special arrangements with the Government of India, and the conditions (e.g., in regard to times of working, traffic rates and allocation of revenue) will be regulated according to the circumstances of each case.

NOTE.—The question of inter-communication between States will be a matter of mutual arrangement between the States through the Government of India. The possibility of such inter-communication will be borne in mind when wave-lengths are allotted.

III. The following are the conditions generally applicable to all wireless stations in British India and in Indian States :—

- (a) Qualified operators should be employed whenever a transmitting set is opera-

\* See Appendix, Note I.

## V.

### SUMMARY REVISED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER OF PRINCES AT THEIR MEETING IN AUGUST 1924.

As it is necessary that the provisions of the International Radio-Telegraph Convention\* should be observed throughout India, it is in the interests of all the parties that in all matters with respect to the Wireless Telegraphy and Wireless Telephony co-ordination should be maintained, and to attain such co-ordination regulations are required in order to avoid mutual interference. With this end in view, the following principles should be observed :—

I. *Wireless stations whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required solely for communication within a State.*—It is essential, with a view to maintain co-ordination and to avoid mutual interference, that there should be previous consultation with the Government of India in regard to installation and power and before any alterations in location (in the case of fixed sets), type and power are introduced. For this purpose information is required as to the following points :—

- (a) the general purpose for which the station is required, e.g., whether it is required for public or private communications, for experimental or instructional purposes, and whether it is to be fixed or portable, permanent or temporary),
- (b) the distance over which communication is desired.
- (c) in the case of a fixed station, the approximate location, i.e., town, village, etc.

NOTE.—After receiving this information the Government of India will, having regard to the location, be in a position to advise in respect of the type of installation required and the power necessary, and to allot suitable waves to each station. Unless such advice is obtained and followed there is a risk that stations might be erected in totally unsuitable situations or that the apparatus might be quite inadequate for the purpose in view. In either case the station would probably prove to be a failure. On the other hand, too powerful a station might be erected involving unnecessary expenditure and probably causing undesirable interference with other stations.

II. *Wireless stations, whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required for communication with a station in British India.*—Such stations can only be erected and worked under special arrangements with the Government of India and the conditions (e.g., in regard to times of working, traffic and rates) will be regulated according to the circumstances of each case.

III. *Wireless stations, whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required for communication with a station in another State.*—Such stations can only be erected and worked under mutual arrangements effected between the States concerned through the Government of India.

IV. The following are the conditions generally applicable to all wireless stations in British India and in Indian States :—

- (a) Qualified operators should be employed whenever a transmitting set is

\* See Appendix, Note I.

## VI.

### SUMMARY AMENDED IN THE LIGHT OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE LOCAL GOVTS., POLITICAL OFFICERS AND DARBARS.

(Amendments shewn in bold type.)

As it is necessary that the provisions of the International Radio-Telegraph Convention\* should be observed throughout India, it is in the interests of all the parties that in all matters with respect to the Wireless Telegraphy and Wireless Telephony co-ordination should be maintained, and to attain such co-ordination regulations are required in order to avoid mutual interference. With this end in view, the following principles should be observed :—

I. *Wireless stations whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required solely for communication within a State.*—It is essential, with a view to maintain co-ordination and to avoid mutual interference, that there should be previous consultation with the Government of India in regard to installation and power and before any alterations in location (in the case of fixed sets), type and power are introduced. For this purpose information is required as to the following points :—

- (a) the general purpose for which the station is required (e.g., whether it is required for public or private communications, for experimental or instructional purposes, and whether it is to be fixed or portable, permanent or temporary),
- (b) the distance over which communication is desired,
- (c) in the case of a fixed station, the approximate location, i.e., town, village, etc.

NOTE.—After receiving this information the Government of India will, having regard to the location, be in a position to advise in respect of the type of installation required and the power necessary, and to allot suitable waves to each station. Unless such advice is obtained and followed there is a risk that stations might be erected in totally unsuitable situations or that the apparatus might be quite inadequate for the purpose in view. In either case the station would probably prove to be a failure. On the other hand, too powerful a station might be erected involving unnecessary expenditure and probably causing undesirable interference with other stations.

The Indian States will have full scope for choice as regards the type of installations. In respect of wave-lengths and the extent of the power of the sets employed their wishes will be met as far as possible.

II. *Wireless stations, whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required for communication with a station in British India.*—Such stations can only be erected and worked under special arrangements with the Government of India and the conditions (e.g., in regard to times of working, traffic and rates) will be regulated according to the circumstances of each case.

\* See Appendix, Note I.

## VII.

### SUMMARY AS REVISED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER OF PRINCES AT THEIR MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1925.

(Amendments shewn in bold type.)

As it is necessary that the provisions of the International Radio-Telegraph Convention (see Appendix, Note I) should be observed throughout India, it is in the interests of all the parties that in all matters with respect to the Wireless Telegraphy and Wireless Telephony co-ordination should be maintained, and to attain such co-ordination regulations are required in order to avoid mutual interference. With this end in view, the following principles should be observed :—

I. *Wireless stations whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required solely for communication within a State.*—It is essential, with a view to maintain co-ordination and to avoid mutual interference, that there should be previous consultation with the Government of India in regard to installation and power and before any alterations in location (in the case of fixed sets), type and power are introduced. For this purpose information\* is required as to the following points :—

- (a) the general purpose for which the station is required (e.g., whether it is required for public or private communications, for experimental or instructional purposes, and whether it is to be fixed or portable, permanent or temporary),
- (b) the distance over which communication is desired,
- (c) in the case of a fixed station, the approximate location, i.e., town, village, etc.

II. *Wireless stations, whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required for communication with a station in British India.*—Such stations can only be erected and worked under special arrangements with the Government of India and the conditions (e.g., in regard to times of working, traffic and rates) will be regulated according to the circumstances of each case.

\* NOTE TO CLAUSE I.—After receiving this information the Government of India will, having regard to the location, be in a position to advise in respect of the type of installation required and the power necessary, and to allot suitable waves to each station. Unless such advice is obtained and followed there is a risk that stations might be erected in totally unsuitable situations or that the apparatus might be quite inadequate for the purpose in view. In either case the station would probably prove to be a failure. On the other hand, too powerful a station might be erected involving unnecessary expenditure and probably causing undesirable interference with other stations.

The Indian States will have full scope for choice as regards the type of installations. In respect of wave-lengths and the extent of the power of the sets employed their wishes will be met as far as possible.





WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AND TELEPHONY IN INDIAN STATES.—*concl'd.*I—*concl'd.*

- (i) The States should recognize that on the occurrence of any grave public emergency, or in the interests of the public safety, the Governor-General in Council may, as a temporary measure,—
- (i) take control of any Wireless Telegraph Station owned or licensed by an Indian State subject to reasonable provision being made for State business, or
- (ii) order that any messages or class of messages to or from any persons or class of persons, or relating to any particular subject brought for transmission by, or transmitted or received by, any Wireless Telegraph Station shall not be transmitted, or shall be intercepted or detained or shall be disclosed to the Government or an officer thereof mentioned in the order.

NOTE 1.—If any doubt arises as to the existence of a grave public emergency, or whether any act done under sub-sections (i) and (ii) above was in the interests of the public safety, a certificate signed by a Secretary to the Government of India or to the Local Government would be conclusive proof on the point.

2. The obligations laid on the Government of India by the International Radio-telegraph Convention, which are equally binding both in normal times and emergencies, include control of—

- type of apparatus,
- power to be used,
- characteristics of wave emitted,
- waves to be used,
- interference,
- standards of qualification of operators,
- operating procedure.

There are strong technical reasons for requiring a stricter degree of control in time of grave public emergency or in the interests of public safety, viz. :—

- A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for Government.
- The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work both in time of unrest or war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- In order to join a State itself in which there was unrest with a Station in British India, it would be essential for Government to operate the State Stations.
- Protection of British India Stations and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

II—*concl'd.*

- (h) It is considered that it would be advantageous both to Government and to the States if the Director of Wireless or his Gazetted Officers, could visit Wireless Stations in the States periodically, after obtaining the consent of the Durbar.
- (i) The States should recognize that on the occurrence of any grave public emergency, or in the interests of the public safety, the Governor-General in Council may, as a temporary measure,—
- (i) take control of any Wireless Telegraph Station owned or licensed by an Indian State subject to reasonable provision being made for State business, or
- (ii) order that any messages or class of messages, to or from any persons or class of persons, or relating to any particular subject brought for transmission by, or transmitted or received by, any Wireless Telegraph Station shall not be transmitted, or shall be intercepted or detained or shall be disclosed to the Government or an officer thereof mentioned in the order.

NOTE 1.—If any doubt arises as to the existence of a grave public emergency, or whether any act done under sub-sections (i) and (ii) above was in the interests of the public safety, a certificate signed by a Secretary to the Government of India or to the Local Government would be conclusive proof on the point.

2. The obligations laid on the Government of India by the International Radio Convention, which are equally binding both in normal times and emergencies, include control of—

- type of apparatus,
- power to be used,
- characteristics of wave emitted,
- waves to be used,
- interference,
- standards of qualification of operators,
- operating procedure.

There are strong technical reasons for requiring a stricter degree of control in time of grave public emergency or in the interests of public safety, viz. :—

- A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for Government.
- The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work both in time of unrest or war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- In order to join a State itself in which there was unrest with a Station in British India, it would be essential for Government to operate the State Stations.
- Protection of British India Stations and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

III—*concl'd.*

IV. Since the responsibility will rest with the States for the working of Wireless Telegraphs and Telephones within their territories, whether worked by the States or under licenses granted by the States, it is desirable that the licenses granted by the States should conform to similar licenses granted in British India.

V. Government are prepared, when desired, to advise on all matters concerning the design, siting and erection of Stations. They are prepared, on payment of cost, if accommodation and staff are available, to train supervising and operating staff and to specify, and order and, if necessary staff is available, to undertake erection of apparatus and plant. It would be advantageous both to Government and to States if the Director of Wireless or his Gazetted Officers could visit Wireless Stations in the States periodically, after obtaining the consent of the Durbar.

## APPENDIX.

NOTE 1.—The obligations laid on the Government of India by the International Radio-telegraph Convention, which are equally binding both in normal times and emergencies, include control of—

- type of apparatus,
- power to be used,
- characteristics of wave emitted,
- waves to be used,
- interference,
- standards of qualification of operators,
- operating procedure.

NOTE 2.—There are strong technical reasons for requiring a stricter degree of control in time of grave public emergency or in the interests of public safety, viz. :—

- A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for Government.
- The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work both in time of unrest or war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- In order to join a State itself in which there was unrest with a Station in British India, it would be essential for Government to operate the State Stations.
- Protection of British India Stations and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

IV—*concl'd.*

of Clause III (e) was in the interest of the public safety, a certificate signed by the Political Secretary to the Government of India or, in the case of States with which the Local Government is in direct relations, a Secretary to the Local Government, would be conclusive proof on the point.

IV. Since the responsibility will rest with the States for the working of Wireless Telegraphs and Telephones within their territories, whether worked by the States or under licenses granted by the States, it is desirable that the terms of the licenses granted by the States should conform to those of similar licenses granted in British India.

V. The Government of India are prepared, when desired, to advise on all matters concerning the design, siting and erection of Stations. They are prepared, on payment of cost, if accommodation and staff are available, to train supervising and operating staff and to specify, and order and, if necessary staff is available, to undertake erection of apparatus and plant. It would be advantageous both to the Government of India and to States if the Director of Wireless or his Gazetted Officers could visit Wireless Stations in the States periodically, after obtaining the consent of the State concerned.

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- waves to be used,
- interference,
- standards of qualification of operators,
- operating procedure.

NOTE 2.—There are strong technical reasons for requiring a stricter degree of control in time of grave public emergency or in the interests of public safety, viz. :—

- A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for the Government of India.
- The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work both in time of unrest or war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- If a State in which there is unrest desires communication with a Station in British India it may be advantageous to the State to ask the Government of India for assistance in operating the State Station.
- Protection of Stations in British India and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

V—*concl'd.*

Wireless and his Gazetted Officers could be permitted to visit wireless stations in the States, and similar visits to the wireless stations in British India could be arranged for the wireless officers of the States.

## APPENDIX.

NOTE 1.—The obligations laid on the Government of India by the International Radio-telegraph Convention, which are equally binding both in normal times and emergencies, include control of—

- type of apparatus,
- power to be used,
- characteristics of wave emitted,
- waves to be used,
- interference,
- standards of qualification of operators,
- operating procedure.

NOTE 2.—There are strong technical reasons for requiring a stricter degree of control in time of grave public emergency or in the interests of public safety, viz. :—

- A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for the Government of India.
- The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work in time both of unrest and of war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- If a State in which there is unrest desires communication with a Station in British India it may be advantageous to the State to ask the Government of India for assistance in operating the State Station.
- Protection of Stations in British India and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

VI—*concl'd.*

V. Since the responsibility will rest with the States for the working of wireless telegraphs and telephones within their territories, whether worked by the States or under licenses granted by the States, it is desirable that the purely technical terms of the licenses granted by the States should be similar to the terms of the licenses granted in British India.

Other terms, of an administrative nature, relating to fees, powers to inspect, powers to take over, penalties, etc., will be at the discretion of the States.

VI. The Government of India are prepared, when desired, to advise on all matters concerning the design, siting and erection of stations. They are prepared, on payment of cost, if accommodation and staff are available, to train supervising and operating staff and to specify, and order and, if necessary staff is available, to undertake erection of apparatus and plant. It would be advantageous both to the Government of India and to States if the Director of Wireless and his Gazetted Officers could be permitted to visit wireless stations in the States, and similar visits to the wireless stations in British India could be arranged for the wireless officers of the States.

## APPENDIX.

NOTE 1.—The obligations laid on the Government of India by the International Radio-telegraph Convention, which are equally binding both in normal times and emergencies, include control of—

- type of apparatus,
- power to be used,
- characteristics of wave emitted,
- waves to be used,
- interference,
- standards of qualification of operators,
- operating procedure.

NOTE 2.—There are strong technical reasons for requiring a stricter degree of control in time of grave public emergency or in the interests of public safety, viz. :—

- A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for the Government of India.
- The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work in time both of unrest and of war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- If a State in which there is unrest desires communication with a Station in British India it may be advantageous to the State to ask the Government of India for assistance in operating the State Station.
- Protection of Stations in British India and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

VII—*concl'd.*

V. Since the responsibility will rest with the States for the working of wireless telegraphs and telephones within their territories, whether worked by the States or under licenses granted by the States, it is desirable that the purely technical terms of the licenses granted by the States should be similar to the terms of the licenses granted in British India.

Other terms, of an administrative nature, relating to fees, powers to inspect, powers to take over, penalties, etc., will be at the discretion of the States.

VI. The Government of India are prepared, when desired, to advise on all matters concerning the design, siting and erection of stations. They are prepared, on payment of cost, if accommodation and staff are available, to train supervising and operating staff and to specify, and order and, if necessary staff is available, to undertake erection of apparatus and plant. It would be advantageous both to the Government of India and to States if the Director of Wireless and his Gazetted Officers could be permitted to visit wireless stations in the States, and similar visits to the wireless stations in British India could be arranged for the wireless officers of the States.

N.B.—The Standing Committee have recorded the opinion that, as the members of the Committee have no special knowledge of the subject, any conclusions arrived at should be regarded as liable to revision in the light of subsequent experience.

## APPENDIX.

NOTE 1.—The obligations laid on the Government of India by the International Radio-telegraph Convention, which are equally binding both in normal times and emergencies, include control of—

- type of apparatus,
- power to be used,
- characteristics of wave emitted,
- waves to be used,
- interference,
- standards of qualification of operators,
- operating procedure.

NOTE 2.—There are strong technical reasons for requiring a stricter degree of control in time of grave public emergency, viz. :—

- A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for the Government of India.
- The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work in time both of internal trouble and of war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- If a State in which there is unrest desires communication with a Station in British India it may be advantageous to the State to ask the Government of India for assistance in operating the State Station.
- Protection of Stations in British India and Stations of other States from malicious interference.



WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AND TELEPHONY IN INDIAN STATES.—*contd.*II.—*contd.*

according to the circumstances of each separate case. Wireless Telegraph Stations in Indian States may, however, arrange to transfer messages on payment to any adjoining British Indian Inland Wireless Telegraph Station for onward transmission.

3. The conditions which will be of general application are as follows :—

- (a) Qualified operators should be employed in all cases where the set *transmits*, except possibly in the case of wireless telephone sets of 25 watts power and below.
- (b) In cases where a qualified operator is necessary, he should hold a certificate granted by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, or a competent licensing authority in the United Kingdom or in any British Possession or Protectorate, all of whose certificates are recognised by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.
- (c) In all cases Government alone will allot call signs and wave lengths which must be adhered to, and Government should be consulted before any alterations in sites (or areas), type and power used are introduced.
- (d) Government are prepared, when desired, to advise on all matters concerning the design, siting and erection of Stations. They are prepared, on payment of cost, if accommodation and staff are available, to train supervising and operating staff and to specify, and order and, if necessary staff is available, to undertake erection of apparatus and plant.
- (e) As regards type of Stations, Government consider the use of continuous waves essential. The power should be limited to that required adequately to provide the communication intended.
- (f) As regards apparatus generally, States are requested in the case of a transmitting set to see that it is up-to-date and keeps reasonable pace with the general technical development of wireless in British India.
- (g) Government will exercise some degree of immediate control over the actual signalling of Stations in Indian States. In this connection it will suffice if States will agree to observe signals of control ("silence," "suspension of working temporarily," "adjustment of wave and power," etc.) when made by Indian Government Stations. Such signals will only be made on the authority of the Director of Wireless.

III.—*contd.*

less telephone set of 25 watts or less power. A qualified operator must be in possession of a certificate granted by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, India, or by the competent licensing authority in the United Kingdom or in any British Possession or Protectorate.

NOTE.—A qualified operator is essential for the following reasons :—

- (i) Unless he is technically qualified he will not know whether his apparatus is in correct working order or not, and will not be able to detect or remedy any faults arising from time to time. Technical qualifications are particularly necessary with the complicated apparatus employed now-a-days.
- (ii) Unless he is qualified in operating duties he will be unable to understand the working of other stations or to operate his own station correctly, with the result that he will not handle traffic efficiently, if at all, and in his efforts to obtain communication he may unknowingly cause great interference to other stations.
- (b) Call-signs and wave-lengths are allotted only by the Government of India and it is essential that they should be adhered to.
- (c) The power employed should be limited to that required adequately to provide the communication intended from time to time.
- (d) It is essential in the interests of wireless communication generally that the State should agree to observe signals of control ("suspension of working temporarily," "adjustment of wave and power," etc.), when made by Indian Government stations. Such signals will only be made on the authority of the Director of Wireless.
- (e) The States should recognise that on the occurrence of any grave public emergency, or in the interests of the public safety, the Governor-General in Council may, as a temporary measure,—
- (i) take control of any Wireless Telegraph Station owned or licensed by an Indian State subject to reasonable provision being made for State business, or
- (ii) order that any messages or class of messages to or from any persons or class of persons, or relating to any particular subject, brought for transmission by, or transmitted or received by, any Wireless Telegraph Station shall not be transmitted or shall be intercepted or detained or shall be disclosed to the Government or an officer thereof mentioned in the order.

If any doubt arises as to the existence of a grave public emergency, or whether any act done under sub-sections (i) and (ii) of Clause III (e) was in the interest of the public safety, a certificate signed by a Secretary to the Government of India or to the Local Government would be conclusive proof on the point.

IV.—*contd.*

ed, except possibly in the case of a wireless telephone set of 25 watts or less power. A qualified operator must be in possession of a certificate granted by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, India, or by the competent licensing authority in the United Kingdom or in any British possession or protectorate.

NOTE.—A qualified operator is essential for the following reasons :—

- (i) Unless he is technically qualified he will not know whether his apparatus is in correct working order or not, and will not be able to detect or remedy any faults arising from time to time. Technical qualifications are particularly necessary with the complicated apparatus employed now-a-days.
- (ii) Unless he is qualified in operating duties he will be unable to understand the working of other stations or to operate his own station correctly, with the result that he will not handle traffic efficiently, if at all, and in his efforts to obtain communication he may unknowingly cause great interference to other stations.
- (b) Call-signs and wave-lengths are allotted only by the Government of India and it is essential that they should be adhered to.
- (c) The power employed should be limited to that required adequately to provide the communication intended from time to time.
- (d) It is essential in the interests of wireless communication generally that the States should agree to observe signals of control ("suspension of working temporarily," "adjustment of wave and power," etc.), when made by Indian Government stations. Such signals will only be made on the authority of the Director of Wireless.
- (e) The States should recognise that on the occurrence of any grave public emergency, or in the interests of the public safety, the Governor-General in Council may, as a temporary measure,—
- (i) take control\* of any Wireless Telegraph Station owned or licensed by an Indian State, subject to reasonable provision being made for State business, or
- (ii) direct that any messages or class of messages to or from any persons or class of persons, or relating to any particular subject, brought for transmission by, or transmitted or received by, any Wireless Telegraph Station shall not be transmitted or shall be intercepted or detained or shall be disclosed to the Government or an officer thereof mentioned in the order.

If any doubt arises as to the existence of a grave public emergency, or whether any act done under sub-clauses (i) and (ii)

\* See Appendix, Note 2.

V.—*contd.*

operated, except possibly in the case of a wireless telephone set of 30 watts or less power. A qualified operator must be in possession of a certificate granted by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, India, or by the competent certifying authority in the United Kingdom or in any British possession or protectorate.

NOTE I.—The question of Indian States being authorised to grant certificates is reserved for future consideration.

NOTE II.—A qualified operator is essential for the following reasons :—

- (i) Unless he is technically qualified he will not know whether his apparatus is in correct working order or not, and will not be able to detect or remedy any faults arising from time to time. Technical qualifications are particularly necessary with the complicated apparatus employed now-a-days.
- (ii) Unless he is qualified in operating duties he will be unable to understand the working of other stations or to operate his own station correctly, with the result that he will not handle traffic efficiently, if at all, and in his efforts to obtain communication he may unknowingly cause great interference to other stations.
- (b) Call-Signs and wave-length are allotted only by the Government of India and it is essential that they should be adhered to.
- (c) It is essential in the interests of wireless communication generally that the States should agree to observe signals of control (*e.g.*, "suspension of working temporarily," "adjustment of wave and power," etc.), when made by Indian Government Stations. Such signals will only be made on the authority of the Director of Wireless.
- (d) \*In the case of public emergency it is necessary for the British Government and the States to work in close co-operation, and the Imperial Government feel confident that they may rely on the Indian States to co-operate with them as may be necessary on such occasions.

V. Since the responsibility will rest with the States for the working of wireless telegraphs and telephones within their territories, whether worked by the States or under licenses granted by the States, it is desirable that the terms of the licenses granted by the States should be similar to the terms of the licenses granted in British India.

VI. The Government of India are prepared, when desired, to advise on all matters concerning the design, siting and erection of stations. They are prepared on payment of cost, if accommodation and staff are available, to train supervising and operating staff and to specify, and order and, if necessary staff is available, to undertake erection of apparatus and plant. It would be advantageous both to the Government of India and to States if the Director of

\* See Appendix, Note 2.

VI.—*contd.*

III. *Wireless stations, whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required for communication with a station in another State.*—Such stations can only be erected and worked under mutual arrangements effected between the States concerned through the Government of India.

IV. The following are the conditions generally applicable to all wireless stations in British India and in Indian States :—

- (a) Qualified operators should be employed whenever a transmitting set is operated, except possibly in the case of a wireless telephone set of 30 watts or less power. A qualified operator must be in possession of a certificate granted by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, India, or by the competent certifying authority in the United Kingdom or in any British possession or protectorate.

NOTE I.—The question of Indian States being authorised to grant certificates is reserved for future consideration.

NOTE II.—A qualified operator is essential for the following reasons :—

- (i) Unless he is technically qualified he will not know whether his apparatus is in correct working order or not, and will not be able to detect or remedy any faults arising from time to time. Technical qualifications are particularly necessary with the complicated apparatus employed now-a-days.
- (ii) Unless he is qualified in operating duties he will be unable to understand the working of other stations or to operate his own station correctly, with the result that he will not handle traffic efficiently, if at all, and in his efforts to obtain communication he may unknowingly cause great interference to other stations.
- (b) Call-signs and wave-lengths are allotted only by the Government of India and it is essential that they should be adhered to.
- (c) It is essential in the interests of wireless communication generally that the States should agree to observe signals of control (*e.g.*, "suspension of working temporarily," "adjustment of wave and power," etc.), when made by Indian Government Stations. Such signals will only be made on the authority of the Director of Wireless.
- (d) The power employed in a wireless station in an Indian State should be limited to that required adequately to provide the communication intended from time to time.
- (e) \*In the case of public emergency or in the interests of public safety it is necessary for the British Government and the States to work in close co-operation, and the Imperial Government feel confident that they may rely on the Indian States to co-operate with them as may be necessary on such occasions.

\* See Appendix, Note 2.

VII.—*contd.*

III. *Wireless stations, whether owned by a State or licensed by a State, required for communication with a station in another State.*—Such stations can only be erected and worked under mutual arrangements effected between the States concerned through the Government of India.

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- (a) Qualified operators should be employed whenever a transmitting set is operated, except in the case of a wireless telephone set of 30 watts or less power. A qualified operator must be in possession of a certificate granted by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, India, or by the competent certifying authority in the United Kingdom or in any British possession or protectorate.
- (b) Call signs and wave-lengths are allotted only by the Government of India and it is essential that they should be adhered to.
- (c) It is essential in the interests of wireless communication generally that the States should agree to observe signals of control (*e.g.*, "suspension of working temporarily," "adjustment of wave and power," etc.), when made by Indian Government Stations. Such signals will only be made on the authority of the Director of Wireless.
- (d) The power employed in a wireless station in an Indian State should be limited to that required adequately to provide the communication intended from time to time.
- (e) In the case of public emergency (see Appendix, Note 2) it is necessary for the British Government and the States to work in close co-operation, and the Imperial Government feel confident that they may rely on the Indian States to co-operate with them.

\* NOTE I TO CLAUSE IV (a).—The question of Indian States granting certificates is reserved for further consideration.

NOTE II TO CLAUSE IV (a).—A qualified operator is essential for the following reasons :—

- (i) Unless he is technically qualified he will not know whether his apparatus is in correct working order or not, and will not be able to detect or remedy any faults arising from time to time. Technical qualifications are particularly necessary with the complicated apparatus employed now-a-days.
- (ii) Unless he is qualified in operating duties he will be unable to understand the working of other stations or to operate his own station correctly, with the result that he will not handle traffic efficiently, if at all, and in his efforts to obtain communication he may unknowingly cause great interference to other stations.





WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AND TELEPHONY IN INDIAN STATES.—*concl'd.*II—*concl'd.*

(h) It is considered that it would be advantageous both to Government and to the States if the Director of Wireless or his Gazetted Officers, could visit Wireless Stations in the States periodically, after obtaining the consent of the Durbar.

(i) The States should recognize that on the occurrence of any grave public emergency, or in the interests of the public safety, the Governor-General in Council may, as a temporary measure,—

(j) take control of any Wireless Telegraph Station owned or licensed by an Indian State subject to reasonable provision being made for State business, or

(ii) order that any messages or class of messages, or to or from any persons or class of persons, or relating to any particular subject brought for transmission by, or transmitted or received by, any Wireless Telegraph Station shall not be transmitted, or shall be intercepted or detained or shall be disclosed to the Government or an officer thereof mentioned in the order.

NOTE 1.—If any doubt arises as to the existence of a grave public emergency, or whether any act done under sub-sections (i) and (ii) above was in the interests of the public safety, a certificate signed by a Secretary to the Government of India or to the Local Government would be conclusive proof on the point.

2. The obligations laid on the Government of India by the International Radio Convention, which are equally binding both in normal times and emergencies, include control of—

- (a) type of apparatus,
- (b) power to be used,
- (c) characteristics of wave emitted,
- (d) waves to be used,
- (e) interference,
- (f) standards of qualification of operators,
- (g) operating procedure.

There are strong technical reasons for requiring a stricter degree of control in time of grave public emergency or in the interests of public safety, *viz.* :—

- (a) A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- (b) It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for Government.
- (c) The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- (d) Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work both in time of unrest or war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- (e) In order to join a State itself in which there was unrest with a Station in British India, it would be essential for Government to operate the State Stations.
- (f) Protection of British India Stations and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

III—*concl'd.*

IV. Since the responsibility will rest with the States for the working of Wireless Telegraphs and Telephones within their territories, whether worked by the States or under licenses granted by the States, it is desirable that the licenses granted by the States should conform to similar licenses granted in British India.

V. Government are prepared, when desired, to advise on all matters concerning the design, siting and erection of Stations. They are prepared, on payment of cost, if accommodation and staff are available, to train supervising and operating staff and to specify, and order and, if necessary staff is available, to undertake erection of apparatus and plant. It would be advantageous both to Government and to States if the Director of Wireless or his Gazetted Officers could visit Wireless Stations in the States periodically, after obtaining the consent of the Durbar.

## APPENDIX.

NOTE 1.—The obligations laid on the Government of India by the International Radio-telegraph Convention, which are equally binding both in normal times and emergencies, include control of—

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- (f) standards of qualification of operators,
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NOTE 2.—There are strong technical reasons for requiring a stricter degree of control in time of grave public emergency or in the interests of public safety, *viz.* :—

- (a) A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
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- (c) The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- (d) Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work both in time of unrest or war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- (e) In order to join a State itself in which there was unrest with a Station in British India, it would be essential for Government to operate the State Stations.
- (f) Protection of British India Stations and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

IV—*concl'd.*

of Clause III (e) was in the interest of the public safety, a certificate signed by the Political Secretary to the Government of India or, in the case of States with which the Local Government is in direct relations, a Secretary to the Local Government, would be conclusive proof on the point.

IV. Since the responsibility will rest with the States for the working of Wireless Telegraphs and Telephones within their territories, whether worked by the States or under licenses granted by the States, it is desirable that the terms of the licenses granted by the States should conform to those of similar licenses granted in British India.

V. The Government of India are prepared, when desired, to advise on all matters concerning the design, siting and erection of Stations. They are prepared, on payment of cost, if accommodation and staff are available, to train supervising and operating staff and to specify, and order and, if necessary staff is available, to undertake erection of apparatus and plant. It would be advantageous both to the Government of India and to States if the Director of Wireless or his Gazetted Officers could visit Wireless Stations in the States periodically, after obtaining the consent of the State concerned.

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- (a) A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- (b) It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for the Government of India.
- (c) The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- (d) Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work both in time of unrest or war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- (e) If a State in which there is unrest desires communication with a Station in British India it may be advantageous to the State to ask the Government of India for assistance in operating the State Station.
- (f) Protection of Stations in British India and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

V—*concl'd.*

Wireless and his Gazetted Officers could be permitted to visit wireless stations in the States, and similar visits to the wireless stations in British India could be arranged for the wireless officers of the States.

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- (a) A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- (b) It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for the Government of India.
- (c) The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- (d) Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work in time both of unrest and of war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- (e) If a State in which there is unrest desires communication with a Station in British India it may be advantageous to the State to ask the Government of India for assistance in operating the State Station.
- (f) Protection of Stations in British India and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

VI—*concl'd.*

V. Since the responsibility will rest with the States for the working of wireless telegraphs and telephones within their territories, whether worked by the States or under licenses granted by the States, it is desirable that the purely technical terms of the licenses granted by the States should be similar to the terms of the licenses granted in British India.

Other terms, of an administrative nature, relating to fees, powers to inspect, powers to take over, penalties, etc., will be at the discretion of the States.

VI. The Government of India are prepared, when desired, to advise on all matters concerning the design, siting and erection of stations. They are prepared, on payment of cost, if accommodation and staff are available, to train supervising and operating staff and to specify, and order and, if necessary staff is available, to undertake erection of apparatus and plant. It would be advantageous both to the Government of India and to States if the Director of Wireless and his Gazetted Officers could be permitted to visit wireless stations in the States, and similar visits to the wireless stations in British India could be arranged for the wireless officers of the States.

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- (a) A Station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- (b) It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for the Government of India.
- (c) The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- (d) Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work in time both of unrest and of war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- (e) If a State in which there is unrest desires communication with a Station in British India it may be advantageous to the State to ask the Government of India for assistance in operating the State Station.
- (f) Protection of Stations in British India and Stations of other States from malicious interference.

VII—*concl'd.*

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N.B.—The Standing Committee have recorded the opinion that, as the members of the Committee have no special knowledge of the subject, any conclusions arrived at should be regarded as liable to revision in the light of subsequent experience.

## APPENDIX.

NOTE 1.—The obligations laid on the Government of India by the International Radio-telegraph Convention, which are equally binding both in normal times and emergencies, include control of—

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- (g) operating procedure.

NOTE 2.—There are strong technical reasons for requiring a stricter degree of control in time of grave public emergency, *viz.* :—

- (a) A station might be required as a linking Station between two Stations in British India separated by the State in question and normally out of range of each other.
- (b) It might be desirable to organise the Stations of separate but adjacent States or the Stations of one State into a group to provide telegraph facilities for the Government of India.
- (c) The control of traffic might be desirable so as to obtain some of the benefits of (a) and (b) without actually working the Stations.
- (d) Stations might be of great value for intercepting enemy traffic, watching for illicit Stations and general intelligence work in time both of internal trouble and of war, which the Government of India might not have foreseen.
- (e) If a State in which there is unrest desires communication with a Station in British India it may be advantageous to the State to ask the Government of India for assistance in operating the State Station.
- (f) Protection of Stations in British India and Stations of other States from malicious interference.



## Memorandum explanatory of agendum No. 6.

### *Assessment of compensation for land required for railways in Indian States.*

The summary as revised by the Standing Committee in August 1924 and accepted by the Chamber of Princes (column II of the Statement attached) was referred to the Local Governments, Political Officers and Darbars for their views. After considering these views the Government of India proposed the following two amendments :—

*Clause (i).*—For the concluding words “on account of extinguished land revenue, an arbiter will be appointed by the Local Government concerned, or, in the case of States in direct political relations with the Government of India, by the Government of India, and his decision shall be final”, the words “a Board of Arbitration will be appointed, consisting of one member appointed by the State, another by the Government of India (or by the Local Government in the case of a State which is in direct relations with a Local Government), and a third member appointed by mutual consent, and their decision shall be final” have been substituted.

*Clause (iv).*—For the words “an umpire” the words “a third member” have been substituted.

2. Clause (iv) has also been found defective in another respect. The intention is that there should be, as far as possible,

reciprocity between the States and British India. It is only in cases where *private* rights in land are to be acquired that the Land Acquisition Act is employed in British India. Where Government property is to be acquired for a Darbar railway the procedure is as described in clause (i). But clause (iv) provides that in States it is only where compensation is to be paid to the State itself that the local Land Acquisition Act is to be followed. Private rights in land are to be valued by the method prescribed for the valuation of Government rights in British India. It is therefore necessary to alter the wording of clause (iv), and it is proposed to substitute the following for the first seven lines of the existing clause :—

“In cases in which it is proposed to acquire private rights in land in a State for railway purposes, the proceedings, where the State concerned has enacted a Land Acquisition Act, will be under that law. Where there is no Land Acquisition Act or where the State itself owns or has rights in the land, which it is proposed to acquire, the estimates.....”.

3. The summary with the two amendments referred to above was placed before the Standing Committee in their meeting in September 1925. The Standing Committee made certain suggestions, and the summary as amended in the light of those suggestions (column III of the Statement) is now for the approval of the Chamber of Princes.



## Agendum No. 6.

### *Assessment of compensation for land required for railways in Indian States.*

#### SUMMARY AS PREPARED BY THE FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

##### I

The following are the principles observed in the assessment of compensation for land required in British India and in Indian States respectively for railway purposes :—

- (i) When land in British territory is required for the purposes of railway constructed or to be constructed at the expense of an Indian State, such land, as is in private ownership, is acquired by the British revenue authorities as for a public purpose, under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act. The State is required to pay, as compensation for the land made over to it, the actual amount of the awards paid in the case of private land, and, in the case of Government land, the full market value *plus* such incidental items of expenditure as the cost of establishment, demarcation, stationery. The State is also required to pay compensation for the value of extinguished land revenue, the amount to be settled by negotiation in individual cases, due regard being had to the indirect advantages accruing to the British Government from the railway. Where differences of opinion occur between the State concerned and the local revenue authorities as to the compensation payable on account of extinguished land revenue, an arbiter is appointed by the Local Government concerned, or, in the case of States in direct political relations with the Government of India, by the Government of India, and his decision is final.
- (ii) Before making an award in the case of private land to be acquired for a State, the responsible officer is required to give sufficient notice to the officer of the Darbar concerned, and to take into consideration any representation which such officer may make, whether orally or by letter. Such officer is afforded an opportunity of appearing in person or by agent and of producing evidence as to the value of the land, before any award relating to it is made.
- (iii) When land is required in State territory for the purposes of British railways proper, the general principle to be observed is that, so far as possible, the same degree of compensation shall be paid to the State concerned as is

#### SUMMARY AS REVISED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN AUGUST 1924.

##### II

The following principles shall be observed in the assessment of compensation for land required in British India and in Indian States respectively for railway purposes :—

- (i) When land in British territory is required for the purposes of a railway constructed or to be constructed at the expense of an Indian State, such land as is in private ownership **will be acquired** by the British revenue authorities as for a public purpose, under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act. The State **will be required** to pay, as compensation for the land made over to it, the actual amount of the awards paid in the case of private land, and, in the case of Government land, the full market value *plus* such incidental items of expenditure as the cost of establishment, demarcation, stationery. The State **will also be required** to pay compensation for the value of extinguished land revenue, the amount to be settled by negotiation in individual cases, due regard being had to the indirect advantages accruing to the British Government from the railway. Where differences of opinion occur between the State concerned and the local revenue authorities as to the compensation payable on account of extinguished land revenue, an arbiter **will be appointed** by the Local Government concerned, or, in the case of States in direct political relations with the Government of India, by the Government of India, and his decision shall be final.
- (ii) Before making an award in the case of private land in British territory to be acquired for a State, the responsible officer **will be required** to give sufficient notice to the officer of the Darbar concerned, and to take into consideration any representation which such officer may make, whether orally or by letter. Such officer **shall be afforded** an opportunity of appearing in person or by agent and of producing evidence as to the value of the land, before any award relating to it is made.
- (iii) When land is required in State territory for the purposes of British railways proper, the general principle to be observed **shall be** that the same degree of compensation shall be paid to the State concerned as is payable by States under

#### SUMMARY AS REVISED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER 1925.

##### III.

*[Amendments are shown in bold type.]*

The following principles shall be observed in the assessment of compensation for land required in British India and in Indian States respectively for railway purposes :—

- (i) When land in British territory is required for the purposes of a railway constructed or to be constructed **by or** at the expense of an Indian State, such land as is in private ownership will be acquired by the British revenue authorities as for a public purpose, under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act. The State will be required to pay, as compensation for the land made over to it, the actual amount of the awards paid in the case of private land, and, in the case of Government land, the full market value *plus* such incidental items of expenditure as the cost of establishment, demarcation, stationery. The State will also be required to pay compensation for the value of extinguished land revenue, the amount to be settled by negotiation in individual cases, due regard being had to the indirect advantages accruing to the British Government from the railway. Where differences of opinion occur between the State concerned and the local revenue authorities as to the compensation payable **a Board of Arbitration will be appointed consisting of one member appointed by the State, another by the Government of India (or by the Local Government in the case of a State which is in direct relations with a Local Government), and a third member appointed by mutual consent and their decision shall be final.**
- (ii) Before making an award in the case of private land in British territory to be acquired for a State, **or fixing the amount of compensation in the case of Government land,** the responsible officer will be required to send all necessary details, together with the estimates of the amounts payable, to the State and to give every facility for checking them to the officer or the officers concerned for the purpose, and to take into consideration any representation which such officer or any other **duly accredited representative of the Darbar** may make, whether orally or by letter. Such officers or representatives **should** be afforded an opportunity of appearing in person or by Agent and of producing evidence as to the value of the land



## I

payable by States under the provisions of the preceding clauses. A State's claim for compensation to their tenants for compulsory acquisition shall be admitted, subject to a maximum of 15 per cent. on the market value of the land. This extra 15 per cent. is intended to be distributed by the State amongst the tenants or landholders whose interests have suffered by reason of compulsory ejection from their lands. For this purpose the Darbars shall be asked, where a case for additional compensation has arisen, to furnish with the estimates required under the provision of clause (iv) *infra*, a separate statement giving the area in possession of tenants, etc., the names of such tenants and the amount of additional compensation considered necessary together with the reasons governing the necessity for its grant. Where the terms of a Railway Company's contract provide that the Secretary of State will use his good offices to secure the provision of land in State territory free of cost, the question whether compensation will be paid or not is left for negotiation between the Political authorities and the State concerned.

- v) In order to give effect to these general principles, the following procedure is observed:—

In all cases in which it is proposed to acquire land in a State for railway purposes and the State is entitled to compensation, estimates of the amount payable are framed by the State authorities and forwarded to the Railway Administration concerned, who are afforded all necessary facilities for checking the estimates. If such estimates are accepted by the Railway Administration, they are treated as settlement. Where, however, differences of opinion occur between the State authorities and the Railway Administration concerned, as to the compensation payable or where the amount of an award is raised by action in a court of law and the Railway Administration is not prepared to pay to the State the increased sum demanded, arbitration takes place. If both parties signify in writing their consent to such a course, the Political Officer concerned is appointed as arbiter and his decision is final. In other cases, the compensation payable is assessed by an arbiter appointed by the Government of India, or, in the case of a State which has not direct political relations with the Government of India, by the Local Government concerned. With this arbiter are associated a representative of the Darbar and a

## II

provisions of the preceding clauses. Where the terms of an existing **Contract with the Railway Company** provide that the Secretary of State will use his good offices to secure the provision of land in State territory free of cost, the question whether compensation will be paid or not will be left for negotiation between the Political authorities and the State concerned. **Conditions of this nature should be avoided in future contracts.**

- (iv) In order to give effect to these general principles, the following procedure shall be observed:—

In all cases in which it is proposed to acquire land in a State for railway purposes and the State is entitled to compensation, ~~the~~**proceedings, where the State concerned has enacted a Land Acquisition Act, will be under that law. In other cases** estimates of the amount payable will be framed by the State authorities and forwarded to the Railway Administration concerned, who will be afforded all necessary facilities for checking the estimates. If such estimates are accepted by the Railway Administration, they will be treated as a settlement. Where, however, differences of opinion occur between the State authorities and the Railway Administration concerned, as to the compensation payable, arbitration will take place. If both parties signify in writing their consent to such a course, the Political Officer concerned will be appointed as arbiter, and his decision shall be final. In other cases, the compensation payable shall be assessed by a **Board of Arbitration** consisting of one member appointed by the State, another by the Government of India or the Local Government, in the case of a State which is in direct relations with a Local Government, and an umpire appointed by mutual consent, and their decision shall be final.

payable by States under the provisions of the preceding clauses. A State's claim for compensation to their tenants for compulsory acquisition shall be admitted, subject to a maximum of 15 per cent. on the market value of the land. This extra 15 per cent. is intended to be distributed by the State amongst the tenants or landholders whose interests have suffered by reason of compulsory ejection from their lands. For this purpose the Darbars shall be asked, where a case for additional compensation has arisen, to furnish with the estimates required under the provision of clause (iv) *infra*, a separate statement giving the area in possession of tenants, etc., the names of such tenants and the amount of additional compensation considered necessary together with the reasons governing the necessity for its grant. Where the terms of a Railway Company's contract provide that the Secretary of State will use his good offices to secure the provision of land in State territory free of cost, the question whether compensation will be paid or not is left for negotiation between the Political authorities and the State concerned.

- v) In order to give effect to these general principles, the following procedure is observed :—

In all cases in which it is proposed to acquire land in a State for railway purposes and the State is entitled to compensation, estimates of the amount payable are framed by the State authorities and forwarded to the Railway Administration concerned, who are afforded all necessary facilities for checking the estimates. If such estimates are accepted by the Railway Administration, they are treated as settlement. Where, however, differences of opinion occur between the State authorities and the Railway Administration concerned, as to the compensation payable or where the amount of an award is raised by action in a court of law and the Railway Administration is not prepared to pay to the State the increased sum demanded, arbitration takes place. If both parties signify in writing their consent to such a course, the Political Officer concerned is appointed as arbiter and his decision is final. In other cases, the compensation payable is assessed by an arbiter appointed by the Government of India, or, in the case of a State which has not direct political relations with the Government of India, by the Local Government concerned. With this arbiter are associated a representative of the Darbar and a

provisions of the preceding clauses. Where the terms of an existing **Contract with the Railway Company** provide that the Secretary of State will use his good offices to secure the provision of land in State territory free of cost, the question whether compensation will be paid or not will be left for negotiation between the Political authorities and the State concerned. **Conditions of this nature should be avoided in future contracts.**

- (iv) In order to give effect to these general principles, the following procedure shall be observed :—

In all cases in which it is proposed to acquire land in a State for railway purposes and the State is entitled to compensation, ~~the proceedings, where the~~ **State concerned has enacted a Land Acquisition Act, will be under that law. In other cases** estimates of the amount payable will be framed by the State authorities and forwarded to the Railway Administration concerned, who will be afforded all necessary facilities for checking the estimates. If such estimates are accepted by the Railway Administration, they will be treated as a settlement. Where, however, differences of opinion occur between the State authorities and the Railway Administration concerned, as to the compensation payable, arbitration will take place. If both parties signify in writing their consent to such a course, the Political Officer concerned will be appointed as arbiter, and his decision shall be final. In other cases, the compensation payable shall be assessed by a **Board of Arbitration consisting of one member appointed by the State, another by the Government of India or the Local Government, in the case of a State which is in direct relations with a Local Government, and an umpire appointed by mutual consent, and their decision shall be final.**

before any award relating to it is made **or the amount of compensation is fixed.**

- (iii) When land is required in State territory for the purposes of British railways proper, the general principle to be observed shall be that the same degree of compensation shall be paid to the State concerned as is payable by States under the provisions of the preceding clauses. Where the terms of an existing **Contract with the Railway Company** provide that the Secretary of State will use his good offices to secure the provision of land in State territory free of cost, the question whether compensation will be paid or not will be left for negotiation between the Political authorities and the State concerned. **Conditions of this nature should be avoided in future contracts.**

**In the case of land originally granted free by a State to a railway being relinquished to that State for its own railway purpose, the railway will have no claim to compensation in respect of the value of such land.**

- (iv) In order to give effect to these general principles, the following procedure shall be observed :—

In cases in which it is proposed to acquire **private rights in** land in a State for railway purposes, the proceedings, where the State concerned has enacted a Land Acquisition Act, will be under that law, **and the provisions of clause (ii) will apply *mutatis mutandis*. Where there is no Land Acquisition Act or where the State itself owns or has rights in the land, which it is proposed to acquire,** the estimates of the amount payable will be framed by the State authorities and forwarded to the Railway Administration concerned, who will be afforded the facilities **specified in clause (ii)** for checking the estimates. If such estimates are accepted by the Railway Administration, they will be treated as a settlement. Where, however, differences of opinion occur between the State authorities and the Railway Administration concerned, as to the compensation payable, arbitration will take place. If both parties signify in writing their consent to such a course, the Political Officer concerned will be appointed as arbiter, and his decision shall be final. In other cases, the compensation payable shall be assessed by a **Board of Arbitration consisting of one member appointed by the State, another by the Government of India or the Local Government, in the case of a State which is in direct relations with a Local Government, and a third member appointed by mutual consent, and their decision shall be final.**





In these latter cases the Board of Arbitration will decide the incidence of the cost of arbitration.

- (v) In determining the amount of compensation payable, Political Officers and other arbiters **will be** guided by the general principles that the amount shall be equivalent to what would have been payable by the State had acquisition taken place in British territory and had compensation been assessed in the manner laid down in (i) *supra*.

- (vi) When a railway is constructed by a State or States in British territory, the State or States concerned will have precisely the same rights as any other Railway Administration in British\* territory in

the matter of quarrying stone or excavating material required for the purposes of, or in connection with, the railway.†

\*Note.—The practice in British territory in regard to quarrying stone or excavating material required for railway purposes is as follows :—

- (a) On the standard strip of land ordinarily acquired by a Railway Administration for permanent occupation, i.e., for the emplacement of the actual railway, and its appurtenances such as station buildings, platforms, yards, work-shops, etc., the question of quarrying rights or payment of royalty does not arise, inasmuch as quarrying as such is impracticable on such land, while material set free in the course of construction is utilised by the railway for its own purposes, free of royalty. For land widths ordinarily acquired for the railway proper (other than at stations and terminals) see Sections VII and VIII and Appendix A of the Rules for acquisition of land for railways (Enclosure to Railway Board's Circular No. 889-P./16, dated the 30th August 1918).
- (b) With the exception of the above title to the free use of materials set free in the course of construction on the standard strip of land acquired for the emplacement of the railway the acquisition of land in general carries with it only the surface rights unless the mineral rights are bought out at the same time under the Land Acquisition (Mines) Act, 1885 (XVIII of 1885). Where surface rights only are acquired, a Railway Administration may not quarry stone outside the above standard strip except with the previous consent of the owner, and on payment of royalty where such is ordinarily levied.
- (c) Mining rights other than those in respect of material met with in course of construction remain with the original owner. Where Government is the original owner, the mining rights are not exercised within a width of 50 yards on either side of the railway measured from the outer toe of bank or outer edge of cutting. Where the mining rights are in private ownership, the owner cannot extend any mining operations under his control at or to any point within 50 yards of a railway, except with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council or some officer authorised by him in that behalf, or otherwise than in accordance with such instructions, restrictions and conditions either general or special, which may be attached to such sanction [*vide* in this connection section 20 of the Indian Mines Act, 1901 (VIII of 1901)].
- (d) When land is acquired definitely for quarrying purposes, it is open to a Railway Administration to arrange with the owner for securing the whole of the underlying minerals by payment of extra compensation therefor, under the provisions of the Land Acquisition (Mines) Act, 1885 (XVIII of 1885).‡

In these latter cases the Board of Arbitration will decide the incidence of the cost of arbitration.

- (v) In determining the amount of compensation payable, Political Officers and other arbiters will be guided by the general principles that the amount shall be equivalent to what would have been payable by the State had acquisition taken place in British territory and had compensation been assessed in the manner laid down in (i) *supra*.

- (vi) When a railway is constructed by a State or States in British territory, the State or States concerned will have precisely the same rights as any other Railway Administration in British\* territory

in the matter of, or in connection with, quarrying stone or excavating material required for the purposes of, or in connection with, the railway.‡

\*Note.—The practice in British territory in regard to quarrying stone or excavating material required for railway purposes is as follows :—

- (a) On the standard strip of land ordinarily acquired by a Railway Administration for permanent occupation, i.e., for the emplacement of the actual railway, and its appurtenances such as station buildings, platforms, yards, workshops, etc., the question of quarrying rights or payment of royalty does not arise, inasmuch as quarrying as such is impracticable on such land, while material set free in the course of construction is utilised by the railway for its own purposes, free of royalty. For land widths ordinarily acquired for the railway proper (other than at stations and terminals) see Sections VII and VIII and Appendix A of the Rules for acquisition of land for railways (Enclosure to Railway Board's Circular No. 889-P./16, dated the 30th August 1918).
- (b) With the exception of the above title to the free use of materials set free in the course of construction on the standard strip of land acquired for the emplacement of the railway, the acquisition of land in general carries with it only the surface rights unless the mineral rights are bought out at the same time under the Land Acquisition (Mines) Act, 1885 (XVIII of 1885). Where surface rights only are acquired, a Railway Administration may not quarry stone outside the above standard strip except with the previous consent of the owner, and on payment of royalty where such is ordinarily levied.
- (c) Mining rights other than those in respect of material met with in course of construction remain with the original owner. Where Government is the original owner, the mining rights are not exercised within a width of 50 yards on either side of the railway measured from the outer toe of bank or outer edge of cutting. Where the mining rights are in private ownership, the owner cannot extend any mining operations under his control at or to any point within 50 yards of a railway, except with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council or some officer authorised by him in that behalf, or otherwise than in accordance with such instructions, restrictions and conditions either general or special, which may be attached to such sanction [*vide* in this connection Section 20 of the Indian Mines Act, 1901 (VIII of 1901)].
- (d) When land is acquired definitely for quarrying purposes, it is open to a Railway Administration to arrange with the owner for securing the whole of the underlying minerals by payment of extra compensation therefor, under the provisions of the Land Acquisition (Mines) Act, 1885 (XVIII of 1885).‡

## I

(vii) When a Government railway or a railway worked by a Company, or by a State or States is constructed in State territory, the general principle to be observed is that such a railway shall enjoy the same rights as regards quarrying stone or excavating material as a railway would be entitled to in British\* territory, the rates of royalty payable being determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in clause (iv) above for the assessment of compensation for land to be acquired.

(viii) Where land outside the regular land widths, as prescribed in Sections VII and VIII and Appendix A in the Rules for the acquisition of land for railways (Enclosure to Railway Board's Circular No. 889-P./16, dated 30th August 1918), is required especially for quarrying or excavating for railway purposes, the period of occupation and the method and terms for working such quarries and excavations will be settled by mutual consent, or in the case of dispute, by arbitration as in the case of compensation for land.

\*NOTE.—See prepage.

## II

(vii) When a Government railway or a railway worked by a Company, or by a State or States is constructed in State territory, the general principle to be observed will be that such a railway shall enjoy the same rights as regards quarrying stone or excavating material as a railway would be entitled to in British territory,\* the rates of royalty payable being determined in accordance with the rules in force in the State, subject to the maximum rates payable for similar materials in the nearest British District. In cases where there are no rules, resort will be had to arbitration in the manner provided in clause (iv) above.

(viii) Where land outside the regular land widths, as prescribed in Sections VII and VIII and Appendix A in the Rules for the acquisition of land for railways (Enclosure to Railway Board's Circular No. 889-P./16, dated 30th August 1918), is required for temporary occupation the procedure in British India will be under Part VI of the Land Acquisition Act, and in States in which a Law on the same lines is in force, under that Law. In cases where there is no such Law the terms of occupation and use will be settled by mutual Agreement and in case of dispute as to the terms, by arbitration in the manner prescribed in clause (iv).

\*NOTE.—See prepage.

## III

(vii) When a Government railway or a railway worked by a Company, or by a State or States is constructed in State territory, the general principle to be observed will be that such a railway shall enjoy the same rights as regards quarrying stone or excavating material as a railway would be entitled to in British territory,\* the rates of royalty payable being determined in accordance with the rules in force in the State. In cases where there are no such rules, or where the railway authorities consider that the rates under State rules are unduly high, resort will be had to arbitration in the manner provided in clause (iv) above.

(viii) Where land outside the regular land widths, as prescribed in Sections VII and VIII and Appendix A in the Rules for the acquisition of land for railways (Enclosure to Railway Board's Circular No. 889-P./16, dated 30th August 1918), is required for temporary occupation the procedure in British India will be under Part VI of the Land Acquisition Act, and in States, in which a Law on the same lines is in force, under that Law. In cases where there is no such Law the terms of occupation and use will be settled by mutual agreement; and in case of dispute as to the terms, by arbitration in the manner prescribed in clause (iv).

\*NOTE.—See prepage.





## Memorandum explanatory of Agendum No. 3.

*Exclusion of Jamnia and Nimkhera from the list of lesser Chiefs in Central India entitled to vote for a Representative Member in the Chamber of Princes.*

In Part V of the Appendix to the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members of the Chamber of Princes, the Bhumias of Jamnia and Nimkhera are shown among the lesser Chiefs in Central India entitled to a vote. It has since been pointed out that the real position of these Bhumias in regard to appreciable portions of their holdings is that of complete subordination to certain Darbars to whose superior jurisdiction they are amenable in all matters of internal administration.

2. At the meeting of the Standing Committee on the 5th September 1923 His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner stated that he had, in his capacity as Chancellor of the Chamber, been approached by His Highness the Maharaja of Dhar with regard to the status of the Estates of Jamnia and Nimkhera. His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, both as Chancellor of the Chamber and in his personal capacity as Maharaja of Bikaner, was of opinion that, from the facts before him, Jamnia and Nimkhera were not entitled to representation in the Chamber. Their Highnesses the Maharao of Cutch and the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur agreed with this view and the Committee recorded their opinion that Jamnia and Nimkhera should accordingly be excluded.

3. When the Committee recorded this opinion the full facts were not before them. The exact status of the Estates of Jamnia and Nimkhera was, therefore, carefully investigated and the facts concerning them, which are explained in the attached statements, were placed before the Standing Committee at its meeting in February 1925 with the result that the Committee recommended that Jamnia and Nimkhera should be excluded from the list of lesser States in Central India entitled to vote for a Representative Member in the Chamber of Princes. This decision was based on the intrinsic unimportance of the Bhumias and,

in particular, the very restricted nature of the civil and criminal jurisdiction which they exercise in the villages held by them by prescriptive right, rather than on the fact that parts of their possessions are held from certain suzerain Darbars. In this connection reference may be made to rule 1 of the rules for the election of a Representative Member by the lesser Chiefs in Central India, published with Foreign and Political Department Notification No. 645-R., dated the 12th September 1921 (Extract attached) from which it will be observed that the qualification of a lesser Chief to vote at an election is that he should be ruling over his own State.

4. The recommendation of the Standing Committee is now for the consideration of the Chamber of Princes.

*Foreign and Political Department Notification No. 645-R., dated Simla, the 12th September 1921.*

In pursuance of Regulation (5) of the "Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members" forming Part IV of the First Regulations appended to the Constitution of the Chamber of Princes, published with the Notification of the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, No. 262-R., dated the 8th February 1921, and amended by Notifications No. 321-R., dated the 16th March 1921, and No. 353-R., dated the 13th April 1921, His Excellency the Viceroy has approved of the following Rules for the election of a Representative Member by the Rulers of the States specified in Part V of the Appendix to Regulation IV, being Ruling Chiefs of Central India, namely :—

(1) Each of the Ruling Chiefs specified in Part V of the Appendix to Regulation IV shall, *provided that he is ruling over his own State*, be (i) eligible for election as a Representative Member, and (ii) entitled to vote at an election of a Representative Member. Such Ruling Chiefs are hereinafter referred to as 'electors.'

\* \* \* \* \*



## STATEMENT 1.

### JAMNIA.

The present Bhumia of Jamnia is third in descent from Nadir Singh who was the principal freebooter in the Western Vindhya at the time of the settlement of Malwa. The establishment of British power in Central India compelled Nadir Singh to conform to the change that had occurred. His influence from this time decreased, but he was not able to refrain from his former bad habits in consequence of which a sentence of banishment was passed against him in May 1820 and he was deported to Allahabad where he was kept a prisoner till he died. Nadir Singh's rights were later continued to his sons.

The Bhumia holds 47 hamlets or "paras" by prescriptive right, independently of the land guaranteed to him by Sir John Malcolm, and over which Nadir Singh and his successors have exercised a quasi-independent jurisdiction ever since the settlement of Malwa. Claims to some of the hamlets having been advanced by the Gwalior, Indore and Dhar Darbars and the Bhumia of Rajgarh, an enquiry into them was made in 1868. Looking to the length of time which had elapsed and to the inconclusive and doubtful nature of much of the documentary evidence that had been adduced in support of these claims, Government decided to maintain the existing arrangements and to continue to the Bhumia the exercise of jurisdiction within the 47 "paras," subject only to the control of the Deputy Bhil Agent, and without interference on the part of the authorities of the adjoining districts. A sanad (No. CCLIX on pages 535-536 of Aitchison, Vol. IV) was subsequently (1871) granted to the Bhumia confirming him in his possession of the 47 "paras," subject to the control of the Governor General's Agent only. An appeal against the decision was preferred by the Indore Darbar, but Government declined to reopen the case.

In so far as the villages held by prescriptive right are concerned, the Bhumia exercises the ordinary powers of a 2nd class Magistrate in criminal cases and is also empowered to hear original suits in civil cases the value of which does not exceed Rs. 200. Kunwar Raghunath Singh, the son and heir to the present Bhumia, also exercises the powers of a 3rd class

Magistrate in criminal cases and hears original suits in civil cases the value of which does not exceed Rs 50.

The Bhumia holds seven parwanas granted by the Indore Darbar to Nadir Singh under which he receives tunkhas amounting to Rs. 2,505 from several parwanas. The wording of these parwanas, which were all issued on the same day, is identical (No. CCLVI on page 533 of Aitchison, Vol. IV) In return for this tunkha, the Bhumia has to protect the country from Jam to Nalcha, and to be accountable for all excesses committed within his limits. When the sentence of banishment was passed on Nadir Singh in 1820, a sanad was granted by Sir John Malcolm to Bhiman Singh, confirming to him the tunkha which Nadir Singh had been in receipt of from the Indore Darbar. The Bhumia also holds the village of Kheri under the Indore Darbar. The village was first granted to him under a lease of five years, on a progressive rent rising from Rs 201 to Rs. 701, from which he was to deduct Rs. 150 on account of a guard of sepoy which he was bound to maintain on the Durjanpur Ghaut, under a separate agreement. The sanad granting the lease was mediated by Sir John Malcolm. The original agreement as to the safety of the Durjanpur Ghaut was not mediated by a British officer. The Bhumia continued to hold the village on lease till about 1839 when it was resumed by the Darbar. In 1843 a fresh lease for five years was granted through the mediation of Sir Claude Wade on the same rent (Rs. 701) as before. On the lease expiring, the Darbar again resumed the village. In 1852, through the mediation of the Resident, the village was granted to the Bhumia in perpetuity on payment of a quitrent of Rs. 901. By the terms of the sanad (No. CCLVII on page 533 of Aitchison, Vol. IV) the Bhumia is bound to report all civil, criminal, and political cases to the Darbar, and is liable to forfeit the village if he fails in his engagements.

Under the Dhar Darbar the Bhumia holds the village of Dabir, which was granted to Nadir Singh in perpetuity and confirmed to Bhiman Singh on a yearly payment of Rs 150. In consequence of the payments having fallen into arrears the Darbar reclaimed the village and a fresh agreement (No. CCLV

\* These are reported to be only Bhil hamlets comprising jungly areas with a few scattered huts.



on pages 528-529 of Aitchison, Vol. IV) was mediated in 1833 by Captain Johnston. Fresh disputes having arisen concerning bhet and ghugri dues in Dabir, a final settlement was made in 1834 by Captain Sandys, under which the Bhumia pays Rs. 13-12 to the Dhurampur Cutchery on account of Zamindar's huks. The Bhumia is responsible for robberies committed by people of his villages.

Under a sanad mediated by Sir John Malcolm (No. CCLVIII on pages 534-535 of Aitchison, Vol. IV) the Bhumia also receives Rs. 65 yearly from the Dhar Darbar in commutation of bhet, which he formerly collected in the pargana of Dhurampuri. In return he is bound to protect traders and travellers in the pargana from robbery and he is answerable for all robberies taking place in the pargana.

Under the Gwalior Darbar the Bhumia holds four villages, *viz.*, Kaneria, Silotia,

Bahru Piplia, and Kheri by a sanad (pages 529-530 of Aitchison, Vol. IV) granted through the Jagirdar of Dikthan and mediated by Sir John Malcolm on a yearly payment of Rs. 251. The Bhumia also holds under the Gwalior Darbar the village of Kunjrode by a sanad (*vide* pages 530-531 of Aitchison, Vol. IV) granted through the Jagirdar of Dikthan and mediated by Sir John Malcolm, on a yearly payment of Rs. 401. The Bhumia is one of the 43 guaranteed feudatories of the Gwalior Darbar in respect of whom the Government of India decided in 1921 that the Darbar were entitled to exercise superior jurisdiction and all the suzerain rights, independently of the intervention of the local Political Officers.

The area of the Estate is 38 square miles; the population (excluding that of the area held under Gwalior Darbar) is 2,042, and the revenue is about Rs. 24,000.

## STATEMENT II.

### NIMKHERA.

The Bhumia of Nimkhera is by descent a Bhilala. He holds the Hindola pargana containing 84 villages\* by prescriptive right without payment of tribute. According to tradition his ancestors came originally from Marwar and were granted Nimkhera, which is the chief place in the Hindola pargana, on the condition of preserving the peace of the country. He is reported to be holding two sanads confirming the pargana to Nathu Ram, one of his predecessors, from a Moghul Emperor, but it was reported in 1884 that neither of these sanads appeared to be genuine. In so far as the aforesaid villages are concerned, the Bhumia† exercises the ordinary powers of a 2nd class Magistrate in criminal cases and is empowered to hear civil suits the value of which does not exceed Rs. 500.

The Bhumia holds also the village of Tirla in hereditary succession from the Dhar State, under a sanad (see No. CCLXVI on pages 552-553 of Aitchison,

Vol. IV) mediated by Sir John Malcolm, for which he pays a tunkha of Hali Rs. 500, and is bound to protect the road, and to be answerable for all robberies committed between Dhar and Sultanpur, under penalty of forfeiture of the village. He also pays to Dhar Hali Rs. 64 as zamindari and dami bhet and receives Rs. 11 as bhet in Awulda in pargana Kuksi of Dhar. The guarantee does not extend to this payment. He also holds from the Indore Darbar the village of Borlai in inam, without payment; also the village of Chirakhan in perpetuity, on payment of a yearly tunkha of Rs. 18. The Indore Darbar claim that the village of Undiao, also held by the Bhumia, was granted in inam from the Darbar but the Bhumia claims to hold it by prescriptive right as part of the Hindola pargana. The revenue of the Estate is Rs. 18,000 and details as regards the area and population of the various holdings are as follows:—

AREA IN SQUARE MILES.					POPULATION.				
Prescriptive holding.	Gwalior.	Indore.	Dhar.	Total.	Prescriptive holding.	Gwalior	Indore.	Dhar.	Total.
78-80	4	7	5-70	90	4,221	706	760	1,153	6,840

\*Most of these villages are reported to be only Bhil hamlets comprising jungly areas with a few scattered huks.

†The present Bhumia being a minor, his civil and criminal powers are exercised by his Kamdar.

## Memorandum explanatory of Agendum No. 8.

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### *Question of the amendment of the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members in the Chamber of Princes.*

Under Regulation 8 of the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members in the Chamber of Princes (extract below), such Members as are elected serve only for three years and are eligible for re-election at the end of that period. As matters stand at present, elections of Representative Members in the case of most Constituencies fall due towards the end of October or early in November, *i.e.*, only a few days before the usual dates for the annual session of the Chamber of Princes. It is evident that, unless some alteration is made in the dates of these elections, the members who are to be elected will be at a disadvantage in the matter of preparations for discussions at, and their visit to Delhi for, the meetings of the Chamber. The question was discussed with the Standing Committee at its meetings held in September 1925. The Committee agreed in principle that some measure to obviate the inconvenience brought to notice was desirable. It is, therefore, proposed that Regulation 8 of the Regulations for the appointment of Representative

Members should be amended so as to read as follows:—

“ Representative Members elected under these Regulations will  
\* continue to serve until the conclusion of the third annual meeting of the Chamber of Princes after their election, and will be eligible for re-election at the end of the period.”

The proposed amendment follows the wording of Regulations 2 and 4 respectively of the Regulations regarding the appointment of Chancellor and the Standing Committee, and, while calculated to meet the difficulty in so far as future elections are concerned, makes no practical change in the existing system under which Representative Members who are elected can attend only three annual sessions of the Chamber before the expiry of their term. The proposed amendment will allow plenty of time to the local authorities for necessary action in the matter of electing new Representative Members in good time before the next annual meeting takes place.

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### *Extract from the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members.*

\*        ,        \*        \*        \*

8. Representative Members elected under these Regulations shall serve for

three years and be eligible for re-election at the end of that period.



### **Memorandum explanatory of Agendum No. 9.**

The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner :—

That a Committee be appointed, consisting of Princes and Ministers to consider, in consultation with Representatives of the British Government, and to report to the Chamber of Princes,—

- (1) the best means of safeguarding the interests of the Indian States on occasions when an enquiry is undertaken into matters of common interest to the States and to British India, and
- (2) what machinery should be devised for giving effect to the proposal contained in para. 311 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report regarding joint deliberations.



**Memorandum explanatory of Agendum No. 10.**

The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner :—

That the Chamber of Princes do recommend to His Excellency the Viceroy that Rules 3 and 4 of the Rules for the conduct of business in the Chamber be so amended as to make it permissible for subjects to be included in, and for the circulation of, the Agenda of the Chamber, respectively two months and six weeks before the meeting of the Chamber.



**Memorandum Explanatory of Agendum No. 13**

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The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala :—

“ Resolved that this Chamber do recommend to His Excellency the Viceroy that, in view of the extreme desirability of providing relief to the assessee from payment of double income tax on income taxed both in British India and in Indian States, the Indian States may receive treatment at least similar to what is vouchsafed for Dominions, as defined in section 27 (8) (a) of the British Act of 1920.”





**Memorandum Explanatory of Agendum No. 12.**

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The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar:—

“ That as no suitable provision exists for maintaining the office and staff of the Chancellor to the *Narendra Mandal* and for other incidental expenses and as it is necessary in the interest of the work of the *Mandal* that due provision should be made forthwith, the *Narendra Mandal* resolves, (a) that all Members of the *Mandal* should subscribe Rs. 800, individually annually for five years, and (b) that, in the case of Representative Members the amount should be made up by contributions from the States represented by each.

The scale of contribution by Members and Representative Members should be open to reconsideration at the end of three years in the light of experience then acquired.”

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## **Memorandum explanatory of Agendum No. /**

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### **THE ELECTION OF THE CHANCELLOR.**

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Under clause 2, Part I of the First Regulations, the Chancellor will hold office until the conclusion of the first annual meeting after that at which he was elected. A Chancellor has, therefore, to be elected for the period which will begin at the close of the meetings of the Chamber in November 1925. It is permissible under the First Regulations for a member, whose term as Chancellor is expiring, to be re-elected as Chancellor for a successive term, and the retiring Chancellor is eligible for re-election.

## **Memorandum explanatory of Agendum No. 14.**

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### **THE ELECTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.**

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Under clause 4, Part II, of the First Regulations, the term of office of the members of the present Standing Committee will expire on the conclusion of the meetings of the Chamber of Princes to be held in November 1925, and fresh elections have to be made. The present members are eligible for re-election.

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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST DAY.

*January 25th, 1926.*

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The Chamber assembled at the Council Chamber of Metcalfe House at 11 A.M. on Monday, the 25th January 1926. His Excellency the Viceroy presided.

The following Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present :—

## **Kashmir.**

His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir.

## **Central India.**

The Rao of Alipura.	His Highness the Maharaja of Orchha
His Highness the Maharaja of Bijawar.	His Highness the Maharaja of Panna.
His Highness the Maharaja of Chalkhari.	His Highness the Maharaja of Rewa.
His Highness the Maharaja of Datia.	His Highness the Raja of Sitamau.
His Highness the Raja of Jhabua.	

## **Rajputana.**

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.	His Highness the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur.
His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur	His Highness the Maharao of Kotah
His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.	

## **Bombay.**

His Highness the Maharaja of Nawanagar.	The Chief of Sangli.
The Nawab of Balasinor.	The Pant Sachiv of Bhor.
His Highness the Raj Saheb of Waukaner.	The Thakur of Sayla.
The Raja of Mudhol.	

## **Punjab.**

His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.	His Highness the Raja of Mandi.
His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur.	The Nawab of Loharu.
His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala.	The Rana of Baghat.

## **Sikkim.**

His Highness the Maharaja of Sikkim.

## **United Provinces.**

His Highness the Raja of Tehri.

## **Bihar and Orissa.**

The Raja of Bonai.

On arrival, and after greeting the Ruling Princes and Chiefs present, His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following speech :—

YOUR HIGHNESSES,

I have great pleasure in welcoming Your Highnesses to the labours of another Session of the Narendra Mandal. I regret if inconvenience was caused to any of the Princes by the postponement of the date originally fixed for these meetings. Your Highnesses are aware that just before that date Her Excellency fell ill and was obliged to undergo a serious operation in Calcutta. It was doubtful in the circumstances whether I could have arranged to have been present at Delhi to preside at the meetings of the Chamber; while I was still in perplexity as to the course to take, reluctant on the one hand to miss the privilege of presiding over the Session of the Chamber and of meeting Your Highnesses at Delhi and apprehensive on the other hand of leaving Calcutta at a time when my presence there might be sorely needed, His Highness the Chancellor and several other Princes suggested to me that the date of the Session might be postponed. I gladly fell in with those kind and thoughtful suggestions and this was the reason of the change of date.

First of all I may mention that in sending to His Majesty the King-Emperor a message of condolence from India on the death of Queen Alexandra, I alluded in my telegram to the widespread sorrow of the Princes on that occasion and conveyed their sympathy to His Majesty. I knew that Your Highnesses would wish a reference to the feelings of your Order included in a telegram of this nature and I observe from the agenda that a formal resolution will now be moved in the Chamber to convey your sympathy of which I have already given an indication in my telegram.

Before I pass on to the business before us, let me try to discharge in a measure a personal obligation to Your Highnesses. In my late domestic anxieties I have been very greatly touched by the numerous messages of sympathy and enquiry which reached me every day, or indeed at one time almost every hour, from the Princes and Chiefs. In my preoccupations at the moment I may not have been able to acknowledge sufficiently fully what a great source of encouragement those messages of kindly feeling and friendship have been to me in those trying days. To many Princes present here to-day I take the opportunity once more to testify my warm appreciation of the deep sympathy for me evinced by so many of the Princes and of the sincere regard shown by them for Her Excellency. Among the tenderest of the many pleasant memories we shall take away from India will be the recollection of those messages.

On looking round the Chamber I miss the faces of some of those who were with us at the last Session. Among the Representative Members the Nawab of Dujana, who was a regular attendant at our meetings, has passed away. Among the Members also, death has claimed two most distinguished representatives of your Order. I know that Your Highnesses share my feelings of deep regret at these losses.

His Highness the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior has been cut off in the prime of his life. This Chamber had few rivals to His Highness in whole-hearted devotion to its interests and its business. His Highness attended every Session of the Chamber since its inauguration and was likewise never absent from a single one of the Conferences of Princes and Chiefs which were held before its formation. He was untiring in his service on the Committee of Princes; both here and in that Committee his sagacity and breadth of vision will be sorely missed. In His Highness we have lost not only a most able, conscientious and widely experienced Ruler of one of the great States, but we have also lost a personality of great forcefulness and charm and one who to most of us was a very greatly loved friend.

His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir has also passed away, full of years and honours, from this Chamber and from the State which he ruled for over 40 years. The ordered simplicity of his life and his reverence for what was best in the old traditions won for him a widespread respect in many quarters in India. The memory of his kindly heart and shrewd per-

ception will long be cherished by us. Like the late Maharaja Scindia, His Highness of Kashmir was very regular in his attendance at the meetings of the Chamber; and in spite of enfeebled health and advancing years he only failed to attend the Sessions on two occasions—once when he was preoccupied with arrangements for receiving His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in his State and once when he was prevented from coming by severe illness.

I could say much more on this subject; but as resolutions of condolence with the families of these Princes are to be moved later, I will refrain. I need only now add that, though owing to minority we cannot expect to see the present Maharaja of Gwalior in the Chamber for some years, we welcome the Maharaja of Kashmir and trust that he will continue to give to this Chamber that support, which his uncle so whole-heartedly gave to it.

I feel sure Your Highnesses will wish to join me in warmly welcoming to-day His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala who has recently returned from representing India at the meetings of the Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva. He is to present a statement to the Chamber of his work as a representative. I will not for this reason attempt to deal with his achievements at this stage; but I may to this extent anticipate what will, I have no doubt, be said later in a more amplified form, by offering to him at once my own felicitations and the congratulations of the Chamber on the very able and efficient manner in which he has discharged the onerous and responsible task entrusted to him. The meetings of the Assembly were concerned with affairs of particular interest; and it must be a source of gratification to Your Highnesses that the advice of a representative of your Order is sought and valued, not only in India and in the Councils of the Empire, but by the representatives of the nations of the world on matters of international bearing and importance.

A question in which many of Your Highnesses have taken a keen interest is the simplification of relations between the Government of India and the States. Last year I referred to the progress made in the establishment of direct relations between the Government of India and the various States previously in political relations with the Local Governments. I warned Your Highnesses against too sanguine expectations of an early completion of the process; but the progress actually made has been considerable, bearing in mind the dislocation and alterations in administrative machinery involved, and at the same time the change is working smoothly where it has been made and consolidated. The Punjab States Agency has been in existence for some time, and in November 1924 I inaugurated the Western India States Agency. The latter, so far as can be judged in the short period, is working without any difficulty. Another branch of the same subject had relation to reducing the channels of communication between the Paramount Power and each State to a single link and the representations made centred round the Rajputana Agency. In this respect after a thorough examination and after consultation with the Secretary of State, it has been decided that, though it is outside the range of practical measures to abolish the post of Agent to the Governor-General, it is possible, if the Princes concerned so desire, to create a new second class Residency with headquarters at Bharatpur for the conduct of relations with the States of Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Jhalawar, Karauli and Kotah. It must, however, be clearly understood that the Government does not intend to introduce this change unless it is in accordance with the wishes of the Princes concerned. No other change appears to be possible in this area; and the change now explained, if adopted, must not be taken as giving any ground for anticipation that the post of Agent to the Governor-General can at any time be abolished. Indeed I and my Government have come to the conclusion as the result of a careful examination of the question on present data that the Agent to the Governor-General is an essential part of the machinery for the conduct of our relations with the States in the Rajputana area. I



know that some of Your Highnesses have thought that this post was unnecessary, but let me remind you that while I and my Government are always anxious to meet the wishes of the Princes as far as we possibly can and have given many an earnest of our intentions in this respect, at the same time the responsibility for the direction and control of our relation with Indian States has been vested in my Government by the British Government; and we are bound to set up and maintain the kind of machinery which in our view conduces to the most effective discharge of our responsibilities to His Majesty's Government.

Your Highnesses, we begin to-day the fifth Session of the Chamber of Princes. I, as Viceroy, have had a very intimate connection with these first years of the working of your Chamber; for though this is only the fourth Session at which I have presided, I think I can lay claim to have actually presided at all the *working* meetings of your Chamber, because but little volume of business was transacted during your first Session other than the record of complimentary and formal resolutions. The sands of my term in my high office are running low; and it is with regret that I must lay emphasis on the fact that this is the last Session of the Narendra Mandal over which I shall be called to preside. In future years I shall remember with interest, as the time comes round, that the Princes are again in Session in their Chamber; but my hand will no longer be on the pulse of those questions and interests which have occupied our attention in the Chamber during the past years. I shall not see with my own eyes how the promise of youth is fulfilled in maturity. I shall not personally mark the germination of the seeds of any changes that may affect you, though I may hear from afar of their ripening to harvest. The times and circumstances in which the idea of this Chamber took shape and the Chamber came into existence are still as fresh in most of the minds of Your Highnesses as they are in mine. I shared with Mr. Montagu the Secretary of State and His Majesty's Government at that time the high hopes of the utility of the Chamber and of its great value to the Princes to the Government and to the Empire which were embodied in the Royal Proclamation at its inauguration. I have watched its early years and have laboured to foster the growth of those ideals which were entertained at its creation. The present time, when I am about to sever my connection with it, appears to me to be a fitting opportunity to analyse the work of the Chamber, to review its achievements and to scrutinise the measure attained of fulfilment of its original purpose.

Let me try to recapture for Your Highnesses for a moment the atmosphere as far as the Indian States were concerned at the time of the creation of the Chamber of Princes. It was an era of change in the world. With the ending of the great war much of an older order had passed away; conditions of life had been radically altered; standards and values had been profoundly modified; new ideas had sprung up; a general desire had been manifested among the peoples at large in the world to shoulder heavier responsibilities and to take a greater and more direct share in the control of the affairs of their countries. India itself had been imbued with new aims and new wants. For reasons, which are sufficiently well known, His Majesty's Government with the unanimous support of all political parties in Parliament at the time, had announced its intention to introduce a reformed constitution of Government into British India, to grant a considerable measure of responsible Government and to set the feet of India on the road to the attainment of the status of a self-governing unit in the Empire; a new goal had been placed before the people; new responsibilities had been given to them and new opportunities of service and co-operation had been vouchsafed.

With the States of India relations were still maintained on traditional lines. Following ancient treaties or engagements, custom or agreement in each case the Government of India still dealt through its agents with every State individually. The separate position, rights, dignities and privileges of each individual Ruler were acknowledged and respected as a

separate pact,—as something personal to him and his State and as between him and the Paramount Power alone.

This structure of relations had its difficulties and complexities; but it was valued by the States. It had become a part of history and was hallowed by old traditions and usage. It was well fitted to preserve the self-respect and dignity of each Prince and State; and under the system no interests ran a risk of being prejudiced or belittled. It formed no unimportant factor in fostering that spirit of loyalty and devotion to the Crown and the Government which has so markedly distinguished the annals of the States. It strengthened those ties of mutual trust and regard which had been the cement in the foundations of the relations between the Government of India and the States for so many years. No question arose of disturbing this structure.

Nevertheless side by side with this system of individual relations, the Princes and States formed a picture on a larger canvas. The States covered an area of 600,000 square miles in India and had a population of 69 millions. As a body they occupied at least a third of the whole of India. Collectively their interests and concerns made a very considerable contribution to the general history of India. Though each State had separate relations with the Government, there was of necessity at the same time a community of interest among the States upon questions affecting the States as a whole or questions jointly affecting the States and British India; and although the Government dealt with States individually, there was likewise a uniformity of policy on the part of the Government in respect of those far-reaching questions. Apart from these unifying factors, the Princes and States had attained a new significance outside India. The Princes by their devotion to the Throne and the Empire had displayed in the ordeal of the great war a loyalty which, though for many years fully appreciated and cherished in India and by His Majesty's Government, had not sufficiently perhaps been realised before in the Empire or known to other nations. The Princes and their States were acclaimed as an entity and an asset in the Imperial Commonwealth by the other component parts of the Empire; they were recognised as a factor in the great movements which had brought success to the Allies. Indian State forces had been brigaded as an Imperial Contingent in great campaigns with the troops of the Empire. The Princes of India had begun to take part in Imperial Councils and conclaves. They had been present as representatives of India and the Empire on a unique occasion at the signing of the Peace Treaty and at the Assembly of the League of Nations. By the ordeal of war, bonds of mutual confidence throughout the Empire had been strengthened and identity of interests and responsibilities established. The problems of peace were no less insistent and complex than those of war; and following upon the war difficulties arose which taxed the utmost resources of administrations and which could only be solved by a general spirit of co-operation and help.

The time appeared fitting to His Majesty's Government to invite Your Highnesses to take a larger share in the development of India, to open to the Princes a wider field of activity and by seeking their united advice to give them the opportunity to offer counsel concerning the policy of Government towards matters of common interest to the States or Imperial weal. In the words of His Majesty the Chamber was brought into being "in the confident hope that the united counsels of the Princes and Rulers assembled in formal conclave will be fruitful of lasting good both to themselves and their subjects and by advancing the interests which are common to their territories and to British India will benefit my Empire as a whole . . . . . It is my firm belief that a future full of great and beneficent activities lies before the Chamber thus established. To the Princes long versed in the acts of Government and statesmanship it will open still wider fields of Imperial service; it will afford them opportunities of which, I am convinced, they will be prompt to avail themselves, of comparing experiences, of inter-changing ideas and framing matured and balanced conclusions on matters of common interest. Nor will less advantage accrue to my Viceroy and the officers serving under him, to whom the prudent counsels and considered advice of the Chamber cannot fail to be of the greatest assistance. The problem of the future must be faced

in a spirit of co-operation and trust. It is in this spirit that I summon the Princes of India to a larger share in my Councils''.

It was in these circumstances and with these hopes that the Chamber came into being. Before I proceed to scrutinise the work of the Chamber there are some other points of importance in connection with its formation upon which it will be useful to dwell. In the first place the scheme for the Chamber of Princes was based on the fruits of actual experience of the value of the informal conference which preceded its formation. In the second place the scheme was warmly championed from the outset by a number of the Princes and several of the Princes took an active part in advising upon the form of its constitution and upon the rules and regulations to be framed to ensure its smooth working. Another essential point in the scheme was the entirely voluntary character of its Membership in that attendance was to be a matter of choice. In fact the success of the scheme and the influence of the Chamber were purposely left to depend on the measure of the Princes' belief in its utility and of their desire to support it. Another point of importance is that, while the Chamber was destined freely to give counsel to the Viceroy on matters relating to the territories of the Indian States generally and on questions affecting those territories jointly with British India or the rest of the Empire, the internal affairs of individual States and their Rulers were specifically excluded from its purview. The existing rights of States as regards their internal affairs were in no way impaired or altered by the formation of the Chamber, nor were the resolutions of the Chamber destined in any sense to curtail the consultations and discussions between the Government of India and individual States on matters of policy which had been customary in the past. Thus while on the one hand by the constitution of the Chamber, the Princes as a whole were given a larger voice in the Councils of the Empire and a wide opportunity in an advisory and consultative capacity of influencing the policy of Government as regards the States, yet on the other hand the rights, dignities and privileges of individual Princes were at the inauguration of the Chamber again explicitly guaranteed; the sanctity of separate treaties and engagements was once more solemnly reaffirmed; and the relations subsisting between Government and each State, great or little, were specially conserved and maintained. Briefly summed up the position is that the Chamber of Princes came into existence as a result of evolution from a previous embryonic and less formal body; that it was brought into existence at the desire of and with the help of a number of the Princes; that the continuance of its existence mainly depends on the sense of its value to the Princes and the measure of their support; and that while it introduces an entirely new field of activity and influence for the Princes in the realm of Imperial and Indian affairs, it leaves undisturbed, both in structure and practice, the relations existing between the Paramount Power and each individual State.

Your Highnesses, when the Chamber started, it was not without its critics. Some of them were to be found within the ranks of your own Order. Their apprehensions as to the innovation are well understood by Your Highnesses and rested upon grounds that commended themselves to them as based upon sufficient reason, though the objections appear to us in the main to be met by the safeguards embodied in the constitution of the Chamber. Outside your Order also there were critics of whom the most vocal predicted that the machinery of the Chamber would be used solely to enhance the rights and privileges of the Princes in disregard of their responsibilities for the welfare of their subjects or of their obligations to India and the Empire. There were others who credited the Chamber with unconstitutional purposes and vague reactionary objects. Nor were those Cassandra's wanting who prophesied that the Chamber would speedily cease to exist owing to the indifference or inaction of its Members. The assembling of the fifth Session of the Chamber gives the most definite public contradiction to the latter vaticination. The proceedings of the Chamber and the policy of my Government in State affairs should also have set aside the doubts existing in the minds of certain Members of your Order; but as regards critics among the public generally, as the proceedings

of the Chamber are confidential and are not published, perhaps there are some who still suspect that dark mysteries or black magic are practised at the meetings of the Narendra Mandal. You have no remedy in this latter case except to satisfy your own conscience after due scrutiny of your acts, but I believe that most of the objections of the public to the Chamber have disappeared. The voices of the critics seem to me less insistent of late years; and whatever the public may think of the fruits of the labours of the Chamber of which they know but little, they are by now at least reassured that they have no pernicious effect.

When I come to analyse the work performed by the Chamber I find that in the first place some time has been spent, as was naturally to be expected in the case of a newly-constituted body, in perfecting the machinery of the Chamber itself. You have passed resolutions dealing with the representation of the lesser States in the Chamber and with the representation of States under minority administration. One resolution has endowed the Chamber with its now well-known alternative designation of Narendra Mandal. Certain slight amendments in the first regulations and rules have also formed the subject of resolutions. A preliminary discussion has taken place as to whether it is desirable to introduce any system to give publicity in whole or in part to the proceedings of the Chamber and the question is still under consideration. Very important resolutions have also been passed regarding the constitution and procedure of the Standing Committee—a body whose great utility in the scheme of the Chamber is fully recognised. Annual elections have taken place of Members to the post of Chancellor and to membership of the Standing Committee. These very necessary functions have occupied a considerable portion of Your Highnesses' attention; and I think Your Highnesses have found it a cause of satisfaction that the rules and regulations, supplemented in a slight degree by the additions above referred to, have worked so smoothly and satisfactorily. No difficulties of interpretation or procedure have arisen; and the course of the proceedings in the Chamber and the rules by which they are guided are generally well understood and appreciated.

Your Highnesses, as is most fitting, lost no time in using your new corporate body as the channel for communications of loyalty to the Throne and House of His Majesty the King-Emperor. Messages such as those passed in this Chamber by Your Highnesses to His Majesty of gratitude for the inauguration of the Chamber, to Their Imperial Majesties of congratulations on birth of their first grandson or to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales of welcome to India gain an added force from the circumstance that they are passed in a solemn conclave of numerous representatives of your Order and strike a new note in messages of this character.

As a body Your Highnesses have also taken the opportunity of recording your abiding interest in great personalities who have been connected with the Princes and the States and have shown an understanding sympathy in their concerns. I allude to messages such as those sent to the late Mr. E. Montagu on his retirement from the post of the Secretary of State for India and to his widow on his death.

Of very great interest in the proceedings of the Chamber have been the reports presented by those Members of your Order who have represented India at Imperial Conferences and at the Assembly of the League of Nations. Your Highnesses have heard a number of such reports and passed resolutions congratulating the representatives on the able manner in which they have discharged their great responsibilities. The subject of the resolutions have been Their Highnesses of Cutch and Alwar who were representatives at Imperial Conferences and Their Highnesses of Bikaner, Cutch and Nawanagar who represented India at the Assembly of the League of Nations, the latter being a representative on two occasions. We are to receive the Maharaja of Patiala's report of the work at the latest meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations at the present Session. These reports are quite unique both in interest and character. They transport the audience into a larger atmosphere when the affairs of Empires and Nations are discussed. They directly link up India with the Empire and

connect Your Highnesses and your States with the Imperial Commonwealth. They carry our thoughts towards the place of the British Empire in the world among the nations and countries. They promote reflection to larger lines concerned with the solidarity of the unit of which India is a part and the higher calls of its destiny and of humanity at large. I value these discussions because I believe that they fulfil one of the ideals set before the Chamber of opening up a wider field of activity for the Princes in the interests both of India and of the Imperial weal.

While it is a great privilege to take part in the discussions of the representatives of the Nations at the Assembly of the League, it likewise entails grave responsibilities. India's responsibility, like India's membership, is not only in respect of British India but also of that part of India which is comprised of Your Highnesses' territories. Of the Conventions which are ratified on behalf of "India" as the result of these international gatherings at Geneva, some by their very nature call for action by the Imperial Government alone; but there are others that must necessarily affect, and create definite obligations in respect of the territories over which Your Highnesses rule. It is clear therefore that the Indian States cannot afford to be indifferent to the League and its activities, and judging by the proceedings of this Chamber at past sessions when such questions have been before it, I believe that I and my Government may count with confidence on the co-operation of Your Highnesses in the discharge of responsibilities devolving in this manner on India as a whole.

I need not assure you that there is no intention of encroaching unnecessarily on the freedom with which you conduct your internal administrations. At the same time I must ask you to realise that one of the most important results of the creation of the League of Nations has been to bring into existence machinery by which international influence, or rather the joint public opinion of many countries, can be brought to bear on the domestic affairs of all countries and all administrations. Your Highnesses' international relations are conducted on your behalf by the Imperial Government. So far as the League of Nations is concerned, we have been able to arrange that one of your Order should ordinarily be included on the representation of India at its Assemblies.

There is thus no intention on our part of ignoring or compromising, in the exercise of the right to conclude international agreements on behalf of India as a whole, the rights which are vested in the Rulers of Indian States, though, as I have indicated above, it may be necessary on certain occasions to invite them to take in respect of their territories the same action as we ourselves are required to take in respect of British India.

Let me now turn to our more domestic concerns. While the greater part of the resolutions of the Chamber have had reference to the policy of the Government of India in dealing with the States, to which I will return later, a few resolutions have dealt with questions primarily of interest to the States as a whole and the States *inter se*. I allude to resolutions such as that to appoint a Committee of Ministers to report on certain questions regarding extradition, excise regulations and boundary disputes or that to appoint a Committee of the Chamber to investigate questions of riparian rights. I believe there is a considerable field for work of this nature. It can be conducive of nothing but good. It tends to promote understanding, for there can only be general understanding where individual points of view have had an opportunity of being expressed and understood.

Let me now refer to the discussions regarding the policy of Government in relation to matters affecting the States as a whole and Imperial or British Indian interests at the same time. I allude to subjects such as Railways, Telegraph lines, Wireless communication, Postal arrangements and Mining concessions which have been the subject of resolutions. Policy in these cases directly affects British India as a whole and at the same time several of these questions have aspects of importance impinging on Imperial interests. Many other subjects have an often unsuspected relation to Imperial affairs, as for example even subject of apparently minor importance, such as the



employment of Europeans, which have been discussed in the Chamber, have connections not at first obvious with Imperial policy because the employment of aliens, often a question of importance when war breaks out, is included in the subject.

More limited in scope, in that they deal with the policy of Government in relation to the States only and have no connection with public affairs in British India, are another class of resolutions such as those dealing with the terminology used in addressing Ruling Princes and the Governments of States, the period of limitation in seeking remedy by appointment of a Court of Arbitration and certain aspects of policy regarding agreements to be concluded with States in the case of young Rulers.

Certain resolutions are limited also in another way, in that they deal with questions of interest to one Local Government or to individual Local Governments, such as for example the resolution regarding visits of Ruling Princes to certain sanatoria in the United Provinces, and that relating to the acquisition of immoveable property in British India. These questions, though of interest to all the Princes, are primarily only of interest in British India to the Local Government within whose administration a hill sanatorium lies or within whose administration a particular Prince may seek to acquire immoveable property.

Of interest in another way was the resolution regarding Radio broadcasting. This is a new subject. Its regulation is still fluid in the world and in each individual country. It is sensitive to rapid development and change. It is important that some uniformity be quickly secured as best can be arranged. The Chamber gives the opportunity of speedily bringing a large number of Princes into direct touch with new developments and of hearing their views.

The activity of the Chamber was of particular interest to me in two questions of considerable importance. The Government of India appointed two Committees—one to deal with the press regulations in British India and the other to deal with fiscal policy. The work of these Committees attracted immediate attention among the Princes and resolutions in regard to both were passed by the Chamber. In the first case the resolution led to immediate action by my Government; and a further resolution of the Chamber expressed gratitude at the action we had taken, in the teeth of considerable opposition, as exemplified in the Indian States Protection against Disaffection Bill. Fiscal policy is a more complicated question which cannot be solved without most careful examination. The subject has been under the consideration of my Government and especially of the Departments concerned since the last meeting of the Chamber. I am however not yet in a position to announce a conclusion.

After searching the resolutions of the Chamber I fail to find ground for the forecast of some of its more virulent public critics that it would devote the main part of its energies to securing individual privileges.

After a careful review of the work of the Chamber I arrive at the conclusion that the Chamber is successfully fulfilling those very objects for which it was constituted. I hold that the ideals have been clearly kept in mind, and that there has been no falling away from the high purpose cherished for the Chamber at its inauguration. I earnestly trust it may avoid possible dangers in the future, as, for example, the serious danger of flagging interest which may be shown by scanty attendance at meetings or in a minor degree by lack of promptness in dealing with the business of the Chamber as, for instance, in confirming the proceedings of the Chamber. There is also the risk that activity in the Chamber may be too closely confined to a few Princes only. It is my conviction that the Chamber can only flourish if a considerable number of Princes from different groups of States take a genuine and lively interest in its proceedings and work for its success. To have influence it must be representative; and to be representative the Princes generally must take an active part in formulating views upon questions under discussion.

I am convinced that the advice of the Chamber is and will continue to be of great and real value to the Government; and I likewise feel strongly that the Chamber opens up a wide vista of greater activity in public affairs for the Princes as a whole, and that its tendency must be to extend and broaden outlook and to give to the Princes as a body a larger and keener interest in the progress of India and the destinies of the British Empire. I believe also that the existence of the Chamber helps to assign to the Princes and States a greater weight in the general scheme of the Commonwealth of India which is due to their numbers and importance.

Before leaving the history of the working of the Chamber let me say a word regarding the Standing Committee and the Chancellor—both very vital parts of its machinery. I wish to express my deep appreciation of the admirable services which have been rendered to the Chamber by the Members of the Standing Committee. They have borne the burden and heat of the day; and only those who have worked on the Committee can realise the many hours of concentration, discussion and thought which lie behind the reports submitted by them to deliberation by Your Highnesses at the meetings of the Chamber. The work of the Chamber would be full of difficulties and delays had not the Standing Committee with infinite care and labour previously performed the intricate preliminary spade work and arrived at clear issues suitable for discussion by Your Highnesses in the Chamber. I desire also to pay a debt of sincere gratitude and admiration to the Chancellor. His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner has served the Chamber in this capacity since its inauguration. I need not dwell on the great qualities which he has displayed in his task. I can with complete confidence express my admiration for I know it is shared by Your Highnesses, for his unselfishness in giving up his time and abilities so whole-heartedly to the work of the Chamber and for the great capacity, tact and efficiency he has shown throughout in the conduct of its affairs. The Chamber is indeed fortunate to have secured so devoted and able a Chancellor in the first years of its existence.

Your Highnesses, this Session of the Chamber is the last occasion during my Viceroyalty when I shall have the opportunity of meeting so many of your Order. I am, I regret to say, soon to leave India and to break with those connections and interests which have formed my absorbing occupation during the past five years. Among the many memories of my period of office on which I shall ponder when that office has been laid down is the part that the Princes have played in my experiences during those five years. I shall gratefully recall that throughout the difficulties which surrounded me at one period, I could always count on the unswerving loyalty of the Princes and their States and on their great devotion to the Crown and the Empire. I shall not forget what a source of strength and encouragement this conviction was to me. I shall remember also with pride that on occasions when it was my desire that India should stand well in the eyes of the Dominions or the Nations, I could rely on the Princes chosen as her representatives at Imperial Conferences or International Assemblies to advocate her interests with ability and dignity and to sustain her cause with credit. In the great appeals for charity or public purposes which have been sent forth in my time, Your Highnesses have always made a most generous response and shown a fine example of public spirit and sympathy to India.

Before I turn to other aspects of my personal relations with Your Highnesses let me once more draw your attention to the observations made by me, when I first addressed you in November 1921 and again at the close of my speech to you in November 1924, regarding the reforms and the aspects in which they concern and must increasingly in future concern the States and their Rulers. I then drew your attention, keeping ever before you as your first consideration the happiness of your subjects, to the changing conditions in India and expressed my confidence that Your Highnesses would strive to meet them with sympathy and wisdom. These questions are worthy of your consideration. New currents of thought are seeking to find expression; and in the fullness of time, as history has so often shown, they will find their true expression in a concrete form. I recognise that it

is difficult to choose the proper moment to act and to act in the right manner. It is a difficulty which confronts the sagacity of all those called upon to rule. Rulers can but strive at all times, with understanding and sympathy, to the best of their ability and according to the dictates of their conscience, to guide these currents into those channels which are best calculated to secure the welfare and contentment of the people. I have made these observations in all friendliness, as one who speaks from his own experience and convictions and has the best interests of your Order at heart. I feel sure from my knowledge of Your Highnesses that when the need arises and the proper time comes, you will take what you conceive to be the right course in the true interests of your subjects and of your States.

With some of Your Highnesses acquaintance has ripened into intimacy and these intimacies have been most precious to me; it has been a great happiness to have been at liberty to discuss in the freedom and confidence of these intimacies many of those problems which have perplexed me and to refer to that special knowledge of India which Your Highnesses naturally possess. Let me assure you that during these years Your Highnesses and your concerns have never been absent from my mind. I have shared your joys and sorrows and tried to understand and enter into your apprehensions and hopes. I have often also considered what the future may hold for the Princes and their States. Whatever may be in store, it is my earnest prayer that prosperity and progress may be vouchsafed to your States and to your subjects, that you may preserve the dignity and honour handed down to you from your ancestors, that in your administrations you may possess and enjoy the confidence and affection of those over whom you have been called upon to rule, that you may maintain your great reputation for loyalty to the Person and Throne of His Majesty and be held in high respect and esteem as pillars in the vast structure of the Commonwealth of the British Empire.

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### Agendum No. 1.

*Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in connection with the death of Her late Majesty Queen Alexandra.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses, I rise to move:—

“ That the Chamber of Princes records its profound sense of grief at the demise of Her Imperial Majesty Queen Alexandra whose revered memory will ever be cherished with grateful affection throughout India, and requests His Excellency the President to be so kind as to convey to Their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress its loyal and respectful condolence on this melancholy occasion and its deepest sympathies in the great affliction and the grievous loss which Their Imperial Majesties have sustained.”

Sir, by tradition, religion and sentiment, India's loyalty and devotion to the Person and Throne of the Sovereign have from time immemorial been world-renowned; the sentiments of personal attachment which the Princes of India entertain in a very special measure for their beloved King-Emperor, his gracious Consort and the Imperial House of Windsor have been amply demonstrated in the past—both during the piping times of peace as well as on the battle-fields. Thus anything which affects His Gracious Majesty and his Family affects in a particular degree the Princes of India. And when we take into account the fact that none have more closely identified and associated themselves with the Princes and people of India than our present King-Emperor and our present Queen-Empress, and the manner in which Their Imperial Majesties have always shared in our joys and sorrows, in our hopes and anxieties—facts which have been the source of such encouragement and strength to us at all times—it needs no words from me to emphasize the



profound sense of grief which we all feel at the passing away of His Imperial Majesty's beloved Mother.

But, Sir, we are mourning not only the loss of the King-Emperor's revered Mother—the sharpest and yet the tenderest loss to which the sons of men are heirs, as Mr. Baldwin said when moving a similar resolution in the House of Commons—but we are plunged in grief at the loss of a great and gracious personality, whose memory will ever be revered and treasured by us, and whom we mourn no less on her own account for all her great qualities, her kindnesses, her munificence, and benevolence, and her magnificent work for affording relief to sick and suffering humanity, both in War and Peace.

Several Princes of India have brought back with them from England many cherished memories of the gracious personal kindness, and of the deep abiding interest in India and her Princes and people, evinced by Queen Victoria, King Edward and Queen Alexandra, and by King George and Queen Mary. It was, alas! not ordained to me to pay my respects in person to Queen Victoria; and the Empire and the world were the poorer for King Edward's demise only eight years after his Coronation which I was privileged to attend, but during the course of the past quarter of a century, all but one year, since I first went to England, and since when I have had the high honour of being an honorary A. D. C. to His present Gracious Majesty, it has been my proud privilege and my great good fortune to have been brought into closer contact with the Imperial Family than probably and other Prince with the exception of the late Maharaja Sir Partap Singhji and many are the incidents and examples which one could cite to-day to illustrate that it was because of the personal qualities and the rare gifts with which Queen Alexandra was so richly endowed, that she was so widely popular and respected. But it would be more appropriate if on this occasion I quoted a striking extract from the speech of the present Marquess of Salisbury when he moved his resolution of condolence the other day in the House of Lords on this mournful event. He said:—

“ She had beauty and dignity. She had an exquisite manner and unflinching consideration; she had a winning friendliness for all with whom she came in contact. In a word, her charm was irresistible both to those who knew her well and those who knew her least. It is not surprising that with these qualities she was intensely popular and that in the main the love of the British people for her did not arise because of her mere graciousness so much as because of the beauty of her heart. She had, if I may so phrase it, the touching simplicity of a good woman, and whether she had been Queen or another she would have been equally beloved. It is said and truly said that an evil influence from those in high places produces much evil, but it is equally true that a good influence from those in high places produces much good, and of such was Queen Alexandra.”

Sir, we who are of the Empire might perhaps be considered to be prejudiced, or to be merely desirous of saying something appropriate to the occasion for those placed in an exalted position. But in order to illustrate—if that were indeed necessary—the universal respect and world-wide admiration for Queen Alexandra, I would like to refer to the wonderful tribute paid to Her late Imperial Majesty's memory by the foreign Press which acclaimed Queen Alexandra as the only monarch left whom all Europe acknowledged and which expressed its profound envy at our possessing for so long a national asset of perfect womanliness and such an unassailable bulwark for Throne and constitution.

The British Royal Family have a way, peculiarly their own, of winning the hearts of the people with whom they come in contact, and of securing the loyal attachment of those whose privilege it is to serve them; while the devotion to duty and the spirit of public sacrifice is another of the well-

known traits of the House of Windsor; and Queen Alexandra possessed these characteristics in a most remarkable measure.

As one who has had the honour of being the recipient of much gracious kindness and many favours at her hands, of which I shall always retain the most priceless memories, I deem myself fortunate in having this opportunity and privilege of rendering this last service, and of paying this humble tribute, to the pious memory of a rare personality, who gave of her best to the land of her adoption and to the Empire and of one who has been aptly described as a "very Queen of hearts"—"Alexandra, the Beloved."

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; It is my melancholy duty to rise to second the Resolution moved by my brother His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner. It is indeed lamentable that the hand of death should recently have removed one who has stood throughout the whole Empire as a symbol of all that is most noble in womanhood. I will not attempt on this occasion to emulate the expressions which have been so freely lavished from every quarter concerning the nobility of that great lady whose death we now mourn. It suffices to say that with her a real light has gone from our lives. Queen Alexandra was a very beautiful as well as a very remarkable woman; and her talents both of head and heart owe nothing to the exalted position which she occupied. In fact that position merely gave them freer play. How many of us realise, I wonder, that it is very nearly 60 years since Queen Alexandra came to England as the bride of the Empire's heir-apparent. Throughout these 60 years she enjoyed a measure of popularity, of love, and of devotion, such as no other Sovereigns in English history with the exceptions of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth, can ever hope to claim and when it be considered that she was a foreigner, who came to spend the larger portion of her life in a country strange to her both in language and in custom, it becomes increasingly obvious that her qualities alike as a Sovereign and as a woman were of the most exceptional order.

Never, as it seems to me, has the grief of the Empire been displayed in more affectionate terms than those which have been evoked by the Queen-mother's death. Her gentle and gracious personality, her keen interest in all projects for the betterment of the unfortunate; the beautiful simplicity of her family life—all these things have aroused the love and admiration of an Empire which comprises one-fifth of living mankind.

I feel sure that I am speaking from the bottom of the hearts of my brother Princes when I assert that we all of us feel most deeply with our King-Emperor in his affliction; that we pray he may be strengthened to sustain it; and that his Empire may be bound together even more strongly than before by the memory of the gracious lady who has passed away.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; The Resolution His Highness of Bikaner has moved in such feeling terms scarcely needs individual support since it is assured of the unanimous backing of the whole House.

The whole Empire has mourned the passing away of Her late Majesty Queen Alexandra, the Royal lady who, as wife, mother and Queen lived an ideally noble life, the bright memory of which the lapse of time cannot dim or efface.

It was my proved privilege to have been presented to Her late Majesty nearly 33 years ago and those of Your Highnesses who had had a similar good fortune of personal acquaintance with the late beloved Queen-mother must, like myself, be vividly sensible of the unique charm of her august personality, of her Royal graciousness and of her deep sympathy with human suffering and distress. She was, in fact, an embodiment of charity and benevolence. The demise of such a noble Queen may truly be described as the vanishing of an Imperial asset. It is, thus, only fitting that a combined expression of the profound sympathy and sorrow of the Ruling Princes of India assembled at this Chamber should be respectfully laid before His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor.

**The Chief of Sangli:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; It is my sad and melancholy duty to support the Resolution of condolence proposed by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in connection with the death of Her late Majesty Queen Alexandra. Ever since Her late Majesty came to England from her Royal father's home in Denmark after her marriage, she continually rose in the affections of her people. She always felt for the poor and was active in doing good. Since her widowhood she had devoted herself to works of charity. She was an example of what a daughter, wife, mother, Queen and woman should be and her name will go down to posterity linked with the affectionate gratitude and reverence of the peoples of this vast Empire. Her death is sincerely mourned throughout the Empire, nay throughout the whole civilised world. It is but fitting and proper that we the Princes assembled here should give expression to our grief at the sad hereavement which has overwhelmed our beloved King-Emperor and Queen-Empress and the rest of the Royal family and convey to them our loyal, respectful and heartfelt sympathy and condolence. Your Excellency and Your Highnesses, I whole heartedly join in giving my support to this Resolution.

**The Nawab of Loharu:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; The resolution which His Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Bikaner has just moved, interprets our deep seated sorrow for the sad demise of Her late Majesty the Queen-mother.

The sorrowful news, when received in India, spread a gloom over the hearts of all Indian subjects of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor. but the Princes of India have felt the grief that their august Sovereign had to bear, as their own; for under the British Crown the stability and integrity of the Indian States has been ensured, a fact which has indissolubly attached our affection and devotion to His Britannic Majesty.

Your Excellency on such a sad occasion it is not possible to give full expression to those sentiments which pervade our hearts, but we hope that this brief language of sorrow will be graciously accepted as conveying our humble sympathy to His Imperial Majesty in his sad bereavement.

We all pray that Providence may grant him strength to bear this great loss and that He will spare His Imperial Majesty for a very long time to rule over his vast Empire free of all anxieties.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** I take it that the Resolution which has been moved by His Highness of Bikaner and seconded by His Highness of Patiala is carried unanimously in this House.

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### Agendum No. 1-A.

*Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in connection with the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and the Maharaja of Kashmir.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; I now rise to move the following Resolution:—

“That the Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow at the sad demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Kashmir and the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and deplores the loss sustained by the Ruling Princes of India by the passing away of two of their most distinguished Brother Princes.”

“This Chamber further offers its deepest sympathies and condolence to the bereaved Ruling families.”

Little did we dream when the Chamber last met in November 1924, that we should, within the brief space of a few months, be deploring the loss of His Highness the Maharaja Madho Raoji Scindia of Gwalior and His Highness the Maharaja Partap Singhji of Kashmir, who, by virtue of

their fine personal qualities of head and heart and the reputation they built up for themselves as Rulers, can—quite apart from all considerations of rank—be truly described as two of the most distinguished of our Brother Princes.

Both Their late Highnesses held an abiding and unique place in the hearts and affections of the several millions of their subjects; both will go down to posterity in their respective ways as great Rulers, who served their States, India, and the Empire, in a manner worthy of their high position and—what to us assembled here is of special interest—both Their Highnesses will be remembered as staunch supporters and well-wishers of this Chamber of Princes, in which each in his own way played a prominent and valuable part to which Your Excellency has just now given generous expression; and it is on these grounds that this House and our Brother Princes, far and near, and a great many people in many parts of India—in the territories of Indian States as well as British India—sincerely mourn their loss, and that their death has evoked feelings of regret far beyond the confines of India, and especially in the heart of the Empire. It is therefore but meet and fitting that we—the Princes of India assembled in this Hall, under the Presidency of His Excellency the Viceroy—should take this opportunity of paying our respectful tribute to their honoured memories and that we should record our deep sense of loss and tender to the Members of the bereaved Reigning Families our warmest sympathies and condolences.

Sir, although there was a great difference in their age and personal characteristics, there were many things in common between the late Maharajas of Gwalior and Kashmir. Both were endowed with the qualities which go to make a great Ruler, as I have already stated, and their names will live long after their passing away; and both were inspired by the same high aims and ideals which constituted them true "Friends and Allies" of the Empire. Whilst the late Maharaja of Kashmir ranked amongst the most orthodox of the Hindus, and the late Maharaja Scindia belonged to a later generation who feel that they can take part more freely in the social side of life without being false to their Faith, both were God-fearing men who devoted a considerable portion of their time in the service of God. Though several hundred miles separated their territories, both were united in the determination, from the day they ascended their respective Thrones, to be of the utmost service, within their power, resources and energies, to the British Throne—to which the entire Order of the Ruling Princes of India is so staunchly devoted—and to the Empire—of which we are all proud. Both, in spite of the climatic, geographical and other differences appertaining to their respective Countries, endeavoured to serve their States and their subjects; and by their successful administration have left their mark on the Governments of their Principalities, which is evidenced by the increased prosperity and the enhanced resources of their States and the amelioration of the conditions, and the greater contentment and the increased happiness and well-being, of their beloved subjects.

Both the late Princes came of a martial stock and both maintained considerable, efficient and well-equipped Forces of Troops of their respective States for the Service of the Emperor and the defence of India—Troops who have fought under the British Flag and given good account of themselves in various wars and campaigns, in various climes and countries, during a period extending over a great many years. In recent history opportunities for Rulers of Indian States personally to serve on the battle-fields in the service of the British Throne offered themselves only at a time when, owing to age and failing health, the late Maharaja of Kashmir was unable to avail himself of them; the late Ruler of Gwalior was more fortunate in that he had the greatest desire of a keen soldier gratified by seeing Active Service in the Boxer War in China 26 years ago.

Both Princes, however, felt it deeply, as those who knew them personally are aware, that the state of their health precluded them from personally taking the field in the Great War; but they tried all the more to make

up for it by contributing of their best in the shape of men, money and material to help the Allied cause; and their services to the King-Emperor in that connection are too well-known, and of too recent a date, to need recapitulation here.

Both Their late Highnesses contributed, each in his own way, to the establishment and strengthening of the Chamber of Princes and gave their whole-hearted support to the other reforms concerning the Princes and States which were also inaugurated by the British Government some 5 years ago. Whilst His late Highness of Gwalior, sitting opposite there, brimful of energy and with his great sense of humour and wit, which we sorely miss to-day, took a very active part in the deliberations of this Chamber, and by his wise counsel materially assisted us at our Informal Meetings, and shared in our other activities, His late Highness of Kashmir, in spite of his advanced age, and regardless of personal inconvenience, made a point of lending his support, and also the benefit of his great experience and advice, by being present at the various Sessions of the Chamber, and before that of the Princes' Annual Conferences, and also encouraged us by his presence at our Informal Meetings. And on this occasion we do indeed miss them, as they are surely and sorely missed in their own States.

To His Highness George Jiyaji Rao Scindia, now Maharaja of Gwalior, we can—in the words of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, uttered at the State Banquet at Gwalior in February, 1922—"wish no higher destiny . . . than that he may grow up to be like his Father"; and we pray, that His Highness may be spared to a ripe old age to rule wisely and well over his magnificent heritage and, like his father, to be an ornament to his Order; and, I am sure, it would be the desire of Your Highnesses that we should also join His Excellency in taking this opportunity of welcoming amongst us to-day, His Highness the Maharaja Hari Singhji of Kashmir and of wishing him a long and prosperous reign and many years of useful service to his State, as also to our Emperor.

Sir, if I may strike a personal note, my friendship with the late Maharaja of Gwalior dated back to 32 years ago. This friendship was further strengthened, and cemented during our comradeship in arms in the War in China, which was also my first campaign; and our relations, I am happy to feel, have ever since been those of Brothers. His late Highness was 4 years older and in the course of my visits to him and his visits to my State there was much which I learnt from him in regard to the work of a Ruler and Administrator. I shall also always retain the most pleasant recollections of my friendship, also of long standing, with His late Highness of Kashmir; and there was much in the shape of fatherly advice and of valuable support which he extended to me in the work of the Chamber and Princes' Conference in the last ten years, for which I have to be grateful. I consequently feel it all the greater a privilege to move this Resolution.

Before concluding I feel sure that I shall be echoing the sentiments of not only those of Your Highnesses who are present here to-day but indeed of our entire Order when I give expression to our sense of gratitude and high appreciation at the honours and courtesies so gracefully extended by the British Government on the occasion of the ashes of His late Highness of Gwalior being brought from Paris to Bombay and their journey from Bombay to Gwalior and thence to Allahabad; and of similar compliments paid in British territory at Hardwar and elsewhere in regard to His late Highness of Kashmir.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; the Chamber has to mourn the loss of two of its most distinguished and most venerable members. The late Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir was a figure who appealed deeply to the imagination not merely of his brother Princes but also of the whole Indian people. The simple beauty of his life, his old-world piety, and his unflinching pursuit of Dharma combined to make him a unique personality among the Ruling Princes of India. The late Maharaja of Gwalior was a man of a somewhat different stamp. How much we in this Chamber shall miss his wisdom, his common sense and



his business ability, time alone can show. He was essentially a man of affairs; a great Prince who was also a great administrator. He devoted himself with unflinching courage to promoting the material prosperity of his State and of his people; and no one could have taken more seriously than he the responsibilities of his great position.

It is melancholy to reflect that death has removed from our midst two such figures. May they not be said to represent two complementary sides of human life—the Maharaja of Kashmir with his piety and his otherworldliness and the Maharaja of Gwalior with his business ability and firm grip of practical affairs. Our Chamber has indeed to mourn a heavy loss; and we can but trust that those Princes, one of whom we have to welcome in the places of our honoured friends, will play as noble and as distinguished a part in safeguarding the interests of our Order as those great figures whose loss we mourn to-day. With these words I second the resolution.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; On behalf of my people and myself I thank you most sincerely for your kind sympathy in our bereavement. We have sustained a great loss and the generous sympathy of kind friends has been a comfort for which I am deeply grateful. I should also like to express my grateful thanks for the kind words of welcome that have been extended to me on my entering Your Highnesses' Exalted Order. I hope with the help of some of Your Highnesses whose friendship has always been extended to me and with the indulgence of the Members of the Chamber to try and do what little I can.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; I rise to support the Resolution so eloquently moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner. The loss our Order has sustained by the demise of Their Highnesses the late Maharajas of Gwalior and Jammu and Kashmir is irreparable. Both Their late Highnesses were two of the most prominent Ruling Princes of India and both were gifted with qualities of head and heart which deservedly won for them the highest esteem and universal popularity. For me their demise has also been a personal bereavement. With His late Highness of Gwalior I enjoyed a friendship of over 30 years' standing while with His late Highness of Jammu and Kashmir's distinguished House my House has been on terms of fraternal relationship for several generations past.

This Chamber has special reasons to mourn their disappearance. His late Highness of Gwalior was associated with the very inception of the idea of a Chamber of Princes and actively interested himself in its establishment in collaboration with some of his brother Princes. He always sought to promote its cause and by precept and example was one of its most influential propagandists. His contributions to our debates were invariably marked by a robust common sense and a far-sighted statesmanship.

We shall equally miss His late Highness of Kashmir whose venerable figure lent dignity to our proceedings and who, despite the load of years, rarely absented himself from our meetings and thus set an example which we should do well to emulate. Hence, in Their late Highnesses the Chamber has lost assets of inestimable value.

In their respective spheres the departed Princes have left an indelible impress of their unique personalities and to the honoured memory of both is due a reverent tribute of our profound admiration and affection, and in paying it let us also offer our united good wishes for the ever-increasing welfare and prosperity of their successors and their States.

**His Highness the Raja of Sitamau:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; It is with painful feelings that I get up to support the Resolution on the sad demise of Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Gwalior and Kashmir, so feelingly moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner. Who would have thought last year that we shall so soon be deprived of the sound advice of that great statesman, the Maharaja of Gwalior? At least I had not the remotest idea when I last saw him here that I would see him no more. His Highness' removal from our midst has created a gap which.

alas! will not be easily filled up. My brother Princes have already eulogised in such glowing terms His Highness' high qualities of head and heart that, suffice it for me to say that, in him, the Chamber has lost a great advocate, the Princes, a sincere friend, and the Empire, a loyal supporter. May God give peace to his soul and make the young Maharaja worthy of his father.

**The Chief of Sangli:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; It is with profound sorrow that I rise to perform the painful task of supporting the Resolution just moved by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb of Bikaner. We are assembled here this time under the shadow of the death of two eminent members of our Order, I mean His Highness the late Maharaja Sir Madhavrao Scindia of Gwalior and His Highness the late Maharaja Sir Pratapsingh of Kashmir. It is our sacred duty to render homage to the departed spirits of our worthy friends who were at once great ornaments to our Order and beloved and popular Rulers of their respective States.

Your Excellency and Your Highnesses; You are familiar with the history of the great Maratha House of Gwalior. Every one knows that "fidelity" was the watchword of the Scindia family and it has been the same ever since, as has been aptly described by Colonel Meade, a Resident of Gwalior. The interesting accounts of the wonderful deeds of self-sacrifice and fidelity of the illustrious ancestors of Maharaja Scindia are written in golden letters in Maratha History. But nothing is more glorious, more creditable, and more honourable than the unflinching loyalty and steadfast devotion of Maharaja Jayajirao who saved the British Empire in the crisis of 1857. He remained staunch and loyal to the Paramount Power and resisted the importunities of his own people with great courage and constancy and won for him the everlasting and proud epithet, "the loyal friend of the British". After the death of Maharaja Jayajirao in 1886 Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia, a worthy son of a worthy father, succeeded to the Gadi of Gwalior and honourably maintained the loyal tradition and martial glory of his House. The young Maharaja had inherited all the military qualities of his illustrious ancestors. During the course of his remarkable career he brought the State Forces of Gwalior to a high state of efficiency and earned encomiums from great Generals for their valour and discipline. In the Chinese War in 1900-1901 the Maharaja personally served on General Gaselee's Staff and distinguished himself as a gallant soldier. In the Great War of 1914-15 in France, East Africa, Palestine, Mesopotamia and on the North-West Frontier and in Afghanistan, the Gwalior Army was present on the field and did its best with credit to its Ruler and themselves to ensure victory to the Empire. The *London Times* while paying its tribute to the sacred memory of Maharaja Scindia highly admired his fidelity to the British Empire which it truly remarked was never more zealously or abundantly manifested than throughout the Great War when he exercised his princely generosity in helping the Allied cause.

As an administrator Maharaja Scindia was a typical example of a conscientious and dutiful Ruler. Possessing great energy and versatility of mind, combined with remarkable powers of observation and practical common sense he studied patiently and carefully every detail of administration, introduced several reforms into his State, raised it to a high level of efficiency and promoted the welfare of his subjects. During his reign of 40 years the Maharaja turned old Gwalior into a modern and progressive State. Mr. Crump, the Resident of Gwalior, on the occasion of delivering the Kharita of His Excellency the Viceroy to the new Maharaja on the 27th September 1925, paid a high tribute to the administrative qualities of His Highness. "In all that was done," truly observes the Gwalior Resident, "in all progress that was made, the initiating force, the watchful eye and the firm controlling hand were those of His late Highness. There is not a department, there is not a village in the whole State to whose welfare His Highness did not contribute something and where his personality was not felt. His great qualities were many—careful thinking out of the problems before him to definite and practical solutions, a clear vision of the end to be attained, and the means to attain it, a resolute will that refused to be

daunted by any obstacle, and that never knew defeat but was ready to renew every battle if there was any hope of success, and above all, the good conscience arising from the knowledge that he was doing his best as far as in him lay to serve his State, his people and his God."

It is but natural that such devotion to duty and love for his people earned for His Highness the Maharaja the sincere respect and true attachment of his subjects and his beloved name "Madhav Maharaj" became a household word throughout his State.

His Highness the Maharaja Scindia was not only a loyal and wise Ruler and a distinguished soldier, but was in every respect a true gentleman and a keen sportsman. He possessed wonderful simplicity of manner, great generosity of heart, frankness of mind and kind hospitality to guests which made him popular with every one with whom he came in contact. He was quick-witted and humorous and always social and affable. He was a keen sportsman and his love for sports and amusements was well known. His was in fact a wonderful personality and the brilliant success that he achieved was due in no small measure to his personality and tact.

There were many other virtues in His Highness but the most admirable was his devotion to elders, his true regard for his religion and family custom and his equal treatment to his subjects of all creeds and castes. It is needless to describe in detail all these qualities here as everybody, who knew His Highness, will admit that the late Maharaja was a truly gifted son of India. His high sense of duty towards his State has been reflected in the monumental volumes of his "Policy" which he has left behind as a legacy. His devotion towards his revered mother and his illustrious ancestors has been commemorated in the magnificent temples and Chatries at Shivrपुरi, Gwalior and Poona. His love of impartiality will be seen in the peaceful and happy relations between Hindus and Muhammadans in the Gwalior State and especially in the celebrations of the Ganpati and Moharam festivals, which the Maharaja conducted personally with remarkable zeal and wonderful impartiality.

In fact, the late Maharaja was an accomplished and perfect Ruler who rightly won for him the respect and admiration from all, and was in the choice words of my friend the Maharaja of Bikaner "a pillar of the Empire in the best sense of the term, a tower of strength to his brother Princes, a keen soldier and good sportsman, a good friend and a Ruler who lived for his people and his State, his country and the Empire." His wholehearted assistance in the inauguration of the Chamber of Princes was a most valuable asset to this body, which will be very much the poorer by his loss. He played a very large part in its organization and constitution and was convinced of a great future for it. Such a noble character is no longer amongst us to lead and guide us. He

... .. "lives in God,

That God, which ever lives and loves

One God, one Lord, one element,

And one far off Divine event

To which the whole creation moves "

His life is before us, so rich in its results and so impressive in its morals, and I hope it will serve as a beacon-light to inspire and cheer us and to guide us to the right path.

The hand of Death has not, however, been content with simply inflicting this loss on us; its grasp has fallen on another distinguished member of our Order, namely, the Maharaja of Kashmir which has occasioned a widespread sorrow in India. By his beneficent rule and great solicitude for the welfare of his people, he endeared himself to all classes of his subjects. His lamentable death deprived Kashmir of a Ruler of great benevolence and sagacity, and many institutions and persons outside the State will keenly feel the loss of a generous patron and constant friend. The presence of a Ruler of Kashmir at the meetings of the Chamber is always a source of



strength to it, and the attendance of the late Maharaja at our session from year to year will be gratefully remembered by the body.

I deem it an honour to wholeheartedly join in this public expression of our deep sorrow at the death of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and the Maharaja of Kashmir and our profound and respectful sympathy with the bereaved. With these words I beg to associate myself with this Resolution.

**The Pant Sachiv of Bhor:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; In rising to speak a few words on the painful Resolution now placed before us, I am inspired by a sentiment of gratitude of my house to the noble family of His late Highness the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior, which closely unites us although our States are geographically situated at a great distance from each other. Critical students of history might be aware that about 135 years back the Great Mahadaji Scindia of wide fame and influence was miraculously of much use to my ancestor in relieving him from political troubles.

The distinguished mover of the Resolution and those who followed him have already referred to the exceptional qualities of head and heart which His late Highness the Maharaja Madhavarao Scindia possessed and no further remarks except a few ones are necessary from a comparatively junior member of the Chamber like myself.

As for my individual experience I can only say that I had many occasions of meeting and watching His late Highness during the Sessions of the Chamber when I was always deeply impressed with the remarkable tact he showed in producing an indelible effect upon and creating confidence in the younger members of this House by assisting them in putting forward Resolutions and by making practical suggestions in personal conversation about the art of administering a State in these critical days. In this connection it may be mentioned that the learned volumes which he has prepared for the guidance of the various departments may be read with advantage by all those who have the best interests of their States at heart.

The next point in His late Highness' career which has attracted the attention of the whole world with admiration, is the far-sightedness he exhibited by making elaborate and statesmanlike arrangements in a will detailing the manner in which his State may be governed after him in case he passed away during the minority of his heir-apparent. The instrument has elicited unalloyed approval from all parties, *viz.*, the subjects, the Government and the Brother Princes and it has set an example to all to be ever similarly fore-armed in view of the uncertainty of human life.

It was His late Highness who moved an important Resolution last time concerning a notable amendment in the principles of minority administration and who had then dreamt that the mover of the Resolution was thereby providing an immediate safeguard for his own family, as ill fate would have it?

As regards his relations with the Chamber, we are aware that he took a very keen interest from the beginning in the establishment and prosperity of this institution and we have recognised this by always unanimously electing him to read the reply to be presented to H. E. the Viceroy at the end of our Session. Almost all the bigger Princes of modern views for some reason or other have so far kept themselves aloof from taking part in the deliberations of our Chamber and we shall always remember and henceforward miss still more to our great misfortune the stately figure of His late Highness who was an honourable exception.

Regarding the demise of His late Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir, it must be admitted that with him has passed away one of the very few revered advocates of orthodox and old traditions after a long reign. The geographical position of Kashmir on the frontier of India gives the Ruler a peculiar importance bringing in its train as an equally onerous responsibility which is further enhanced by the majority of the population of that one of the biggest States belonging to a different religion from that of its Ruler.

I may be permitted to mention here that I had the good fortune of enjoying the hospitality of His late Highness when I had an opportunity to mark his amiable disposition and extremely pure and simple character with great admiration.

That the departed Maharaja elicited the continuous admiration of the Paramount Power and the loyal affection of all his subjects alike all through his life by his benevolence and sagacity is a sufficient proof of his towering greatness and needs no further encomium. In conclusion I request Your Highnesses before resuming my seat to pass the condolatory Resolution in the usual solemn way.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses. How different our world will be if we could really always express in the presence of those who live the sentiments that we so lavishly indulge in regarding them and their memory when they are dead and gone. I am reminded of a famous English poet who said that "the evil that men do lives after them but the good is oft interred with their bones." I do not agree with it, for, I believe that death is the cementing factor when the evil that men do gets interred with their bones and the good begins to come to the surface and survives. It is not necessary for me to make any additions to the expressions that have already been given here with regard to the resolution that has been moved. For I feel that if a Ruler has really done his duty as a man is bound to do, then he reigns in the people's hearts and finds his permanent monument therein. But that is all right for the present generation, and such things, alas, are speedily forgotten unless a more substantial monument is left behind either in stone, bronze or in words and it is in order to leave behind on record our sentiments for posterity to know, when they come to this Chamber, in what esteem and friendship we hold those about whom we are talking to-day. And for them to realise when they read these records that these were the Princes whose example they might well attempt to follow.

His Highness the Maharaja of Gwalior blossomed forth as a good administrator at a time when Lord Curzon was Viceroy in India. As we all know, he was a very rigid taskmaster and was ready to push ahead those who were active, who wanted to do their duty, and who exercised their ability in carrying out their important tasks, and he was equally vigilant in encouraging those who lagged behind. On many an occasion I remember having read, particularly in his speeches at Gwalior, the compliments that Lord Curzon paid on numerous occasions to the administration, and the efficiency with which it was conducted under His Highness' personal rule. Since then His Highness kept up that mark of efficiency up to a high degree. He not only administered the State of Gwalior for the satisfaction and happiness of his people, but his administration according to modern methods, taking also the best of the old, was such that may well be held as an example for other Princes to look to and to take notes from for the improvement of their own administration. In the Chamber, as Your Excellency has said, His Highness was one of the five Princes on the Committee who took a vigorous interest in the establishment and the future of the Chamber. Here his work is already recorded and it is not for me to make any additions thereto. But the part that I think and I believe Your Highnesses also appreciated most, was the talents that he brought forward when difficulties arose and when disagreements reached the surface. It was there that His Highness of Gwalior played a great part as the cementing factor and brought together differences of opinion through his friendship, and affection and sense of humour. He was well known all over India as a great sportsman. As we also know, and I have had personal testimony during my recent visit to Gwalior, he was very much loved by his own people, and we are glad to see that he has left behind him almost an absolute image of himself in his very young heir and successor, who, we hope, with all friendship and good-will, will rise to those aspirations and to his noble heritage hereafter.

As to the Maharaja of Kashmir, His Highness was one of the pillars of our religion, the Sanatan Dharma. He always took an active interest and an active part where such organisations flourished. He did not only take an active part in such matters by word, but he also gave practical assistance in many ways where they were a vital need. I believe that one of the principal qualifications of His Highness was his extraordinary simplicity of character and it was that simplicity which made him loved amongst his friends. It was that simplicity also which brought him many troubles, many difficulties. For, alas, as happens in this world, people took only too ready an opportunity of such simplicity for their own ends. He was misunderstood many times, but nevertheless he never changed his character, and through that simplicity he carried those friendships which he had already earned forward many times, and he continued to the last dying days to earn new friendships which added lustre not only to himself but to the throne of Kashmir. His heir and successor, we cordially welcome to-day in His Highness Sir Hari Singhji. We welcome him here not only as the successor of the great State of Kashmir which has been described by one of the Moghul Emperors as the Heaven upon Earth, but we welcome him here as one who has shown already great capacity, intelligence and intellect from which we hope not only the Kashmir State will benefit but that it will be an asset, as it promises to be, to the Chamber of Princes and to our Order. With these few words I cordially echo the resolution on this solemn occasion.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** May I take it that this resolution which has been moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner and seconded by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala and supported by several of Your Highnesses and Members present, is carried unanimously?

It is not desired to go any further to-day and we had better adjourn till to-morrow.

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The Chamber then adjourned till 11 A.M. the following day.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND DAY.

*January 26th, 1926.*

With the exception of His Highness the Maharaja of Sikkim, the same Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present as on the first day.

### Agendum No. 2.

*Statement from His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala regarding his work as a representative of India at the meeting of the League of Nations in 1925.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; Your Highnesses will expect from me some account of the work which was performed by the Indian Delegation at the 8th Session of the League of Nations. In delivering orally this account to the Chamber of Princes, I am following the precedent which has been set by certain other Members of this Chamber, who have also been numbered among India's representatives at the League. But in the brief Report, which is already in Your Highnesses' hands, I have ventured to set something of a new fashion which I hope will be appreciated. This little book, which had necessarily to be prepared in great haste, is intended to convey to Your Highnesses a personal impression. It is in no sense official; and for that very reason will, I trust, be of interest to you. It does not supersede the official Report of the Indian Delegation, to which I have appended my signature. It merely describes the impression made upon me, as a Ruling Prince, by the 6th Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations.

In thus presenting to Your Highnesses a personal document, I have endeavoured to indicate my view of the relation which should exist between the Ruling Prince, who is chosen to represent India at the League of Nations, and this Chamber. Despite certain technical difficulties, into which I need not enter I will not conceal from you any conviction that the Prince thus chosen ought to look upon himself as representing not merely his own State, but also his Order as well as his Country. It is from this point of view that I have ventured to present to Your Highnesses a Report which sets out, in the frankest possible manner, exactly what, as it seems to me, the Members of this Chamber would expect to learn from one who has the duty of representing them. I have not adopted the stereotyped form of an official report; I have not quoted documents; I have not burdened Your Highnesses with long lists of delegates and lengthy documents of debates. I have merely endeavoured to take you completely into my confidence and to describe to you the importance which, as it seems to me, the League of Nations possesses for all of us here assembled in our capacity as Indian Rulers.

Having thus explained very briefly the nature of my Report, it only remains for me to describe the scope of my speech. I do not intend to weary Your Highnesses by repeating, at any length, matter which you will find more clearly expounded in the printed page. It is merely my intention to summarise, as briefly as I can, the gist of the matter; and to add thereto certain personal remarks of a more delicate and confidential nature. For reasons which, I think will be obvious to Your Highnesses, I have not included a discussion of several of these topics in the Report itself.

Let me first begin with a brief history of the affairs to which I am directing your attention.

The invitation that I should proceed to the 6th Assembly of the League of Nations as one of India's representatives came to me somewhat as a surprise. In fact so short was the notice that I was compelled to sail from India within a fortnight after I had conveyed my acceptance to His Excellency. I must frankly confess that I found it impossible in India to form any clear idea of the business with which I should be called upon to deal. All that

could be given me was a meagre skeleton agenda, together with a very brief indication of the probable views of the Government of India upon certain questions which might or might not arise.

In passing, I would direct the attention of Your Highnesses to the handicap which such an arrangement imposes upon the representatives of India. My own experience convinces me that it would be of great advantage if those persons, who are selected to represent India at the League of Nations, could hold preliminary consultation with certain Departments of the Government of India prior to their sailing. Even granting, which I understand to be actually the case, that the Government of India do not receive the final agenda of the League in time to enable them to prepare complete briefs for the guidance of their representatives, it might, at least, be found possible for them to obtain, at an earlier date than has hitherto been customary, a detailed list of business. The representatives of India could then discuss this list informally with the heads of Departments, and could thus be sure that they possessed at least an inkling of the views of the Government of India upon certain of the more outstanding questions.

I regard this point as being of considerable importance; since the India Office are in a distinctly better position than the Government of India. When I arrived in London, I found awaiting me in Whitehall both a more detailed Agenda and also a number of briefs concerning the more important items likely to come under discussion. The India Office authorities were, it is true, far from clear as to the definitive nature of the list; and were even uncertain as to whether some of the items included therein would or would not come under discussion. But at least they knew far more than the Government of India. The consequence of such a condition of affairs is plain. The representatives of India, when they require guidance as to the line of action which they should adopt, are driven for that guidance to have resort to the India Office. My experience leads me to believe that the opinions of the Government of India and of the India Office are not necessarily completely coincident in several matters. Now the representatives who stand for India in the League of Nations are the representatives of the Government of India and not of the Government of Great Britain. At the same time, working as they do 6,000 miles away from the Government for whom they speak, they are invariably, to some extent, thrown upon their own resources. It is for this reason that I would again emphasise the importance of preliminary consultation between the Government of India and the representatives of India before these representatives embark upon their long and arduous journey.

My colleagues of the Indian Delegation consisted of Lord Willingdon, Sir Atul Chatterjee and Sir Edward Chamier. We held a meeting at the India Office on August 7th, at which, after the end of 2 or 3 hours close study, we arrived at general conclusions on the subjects which found a place upon the agenda of the 6th Session of the Assembly. We agreed that while there was little of supreme importance from the Indian standpoint, there were a number of items which needed careful watching. Among these, I may mention the Protocol for the pacific settlement of international disputes; the draft convention on Slavery which Lord Cecil had put forward; the Italian Scheme for an International Relief Union; the report of the Advisory Committee on traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs; the work of the Health Organisation; and certain financial matters. We arranged a preliminary division of the work between the members of the delegation; since it is the practice of the League to refer the items on the agenda, in the first instance, to one or more of the six committees, whose duty it is to prepare the resolution which are afterwards discussed in the plenary session of the Assembly.

In London I was led to raise a question which I believe to be of considerable importance to our Order. I am strongly opposed to the practice under which a Ruling Prince, who represents India at the League of Nations, is expected to receive a grant of money to indemnify him for the expenses he incurs. I feel that a system which imposes upon the tax-payer

of British India a burden of such a kind, is both unsound and unhealthy. It is unsound, in that British India is charged with an expense which should not fall upon it; it is unhealthy, in that it inevitably brings the Prince concerned under the criticism of those persons who find themselves contributing to the cost of his deputation. I myself accepted the subvention under protest, and solely because I was assured that it was the invariable practice. But I wish to protest most earnestly against the continuance of the system. I would urge that any Ruling Prince of India who is worthy to stand for his Order in the eyes of Europe, is certain to possess means sufficiently ample to place him beyond the needs of any such pecuniary subvention as it has become the practice to offer. I feel that so long as it is customary to expect a Ruling Prince to receive such a grant, the Prince himself is placed in a false position. I also believe that the discontinuance of the system would be healthy: in that it would deprive of all taint of monetary transaction a relationship which is, in fact, honourable to both the parties. The Princes of India are not paid for their war services: why then should it be assumed that they expect to be indemnified for the cost of equally honourable service in times of peace?

I now come to the affairs of the Sixth Meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations, which opened at Geneva on September 7th.

I do not desire to repeat myself; but for the sake of clarity, I must enunciate certain salient features of the impression made upon my mind. I would beg Your Highnesses to remember that the Assembly of the League consists of representatives of some 50 nations. These representatives are not mere elected delegates representing no one in particular, such as one finds in so many parliamentary organisations. They are the premiers, the foreign ministers, the ministers of commerce, of the countries to which they belong. They are men invested not merely with authority and office, but also with practical power. In many instances, they constitute the most important element in the Governments for which they speak. I desire to emphasise this fact because one finds in the public press so much ill-informed criticism concerning the League of Nations, its work and its composition. But I am sure Your Highnesses will agree with me that an Assembly which is composed of the prime ministers and foreign ministers of leading countries of Europe, of America, and even of Asia, in addition to being impressive for its practical knowledge of affairs, is likely also to command remarkable influence over the more responsible sections of public opinion throughout the world. In point of fact, the Assembly of the League acts as lens which receives, transmits, and in transmitting concentrates public opinion from all over the world upon the deliberations of the League. This concentrated public opinion represents in fact an enormous force which can only be resisted with difficulty even when it is obviously misdirected. In the atmosphere of enthusiasm which characterises the sessions of the Assembly opposition to a certain kind of demand is almost impossible. The League of Nations thus possesses driving force of a kind which, if not wisely controlled, is likely to exert an influence which may prove a source of difficulty, or even of disaster, to those nations who take part in its deliberations.

Your Highnesses may well feel inclined to ask me, at this point, the reason why India should concern herself with the affairs of an International body which, by the general confession even of its friends, possesses an influence which may well be dangerous. The answer is very simple. India cannot afford to stand aside. Let me give a practical example. During the first 4 years of the existence of the League, France, our gallant Ally, showed but little sympathy towards the ideals and aims of this International institution. Secure in her Army and in her air force, she opposed a consistent negative to many of the proposals which were from time to time put forward. What was the result? France, despite her great position in world politics, steadily lost influence in the League. Since her opposition to all proposals for the translation of ideals into practice could be anticipated, it was scarcely considered. She became something like a cipher in the Counsels of the League. Now after four years, she was compelled painfully and at some loss of dignity, to fall into line; to launch herself



once more upon the way of advance and to discount the impression which her over-stiff attitude had conveyed to the minds of her sister countries. I should weary Your Highnesses were I to attempt to describe at length the manner in which this remarkable change was brought about. I should be compelled to refer to the currents of politics in contemporary France; to the immense influence exerted even upon a conservative Government by organised humanitarian sentiment; to the leadership exercised over intellectual opinion by the universities and the learned societies; to many other matters for which both time and space will fail for an adequate discussion. I desire merely to show Your Highnesses that even a great Power like France finds it a matter of impossibility to isolate herself from that section of advanced world opinion which is represented by the League of Nations. We may like it or we may dislike it, but the League of Nations has come to stay. It, therefore, behoves us to make the best of it.

In this connection I would desire to say a word to Your Highnesses concerning the relations between the great and small powers of the League. You will frequently find it stated in the press that the great powers manage everything from behind the scenes. In my own experience, this is very far from being the case. Matters are frequently taken out of their hands entirely. In view of their great position and their manifold responsibilities, they naturally exercise a certain moderating influence, directing their energies to curbing injudicious enthusiasm and to preventing the adoption of sweeping resolutions which there is little prospect of carrying into effect. The smaller States, who constitute the majority of the nations of the League, supply the driving force of advanced sentiment. Fortunately, they appreciate, as a rule, the position and the difficulties of the great powers and refrain from employing their effective majority of votes in an injudicious manner. But the result of this interplay of opposing forces, that is to say, the enthusiasm and numbers of the smaller forces, as contrasted with the importance and moderation of the great States, is a very delicately balanced equilibrium which is easily upset. This equilibrium was in fact upset in 1924 when France and England, under their socialist Governments, instead of exercising a restraining influence upon the over-zealous enthusiasm of the smaller powers, themselves took the lead in the general demand for compulsory arbitration and immediate disarmament. By 1925 England and France, Belgium and Italy had definitely arrived at the conclusion that the Protocol, as accepted by the fifth Assembly, was incapable of immediate realisation. They proposed to substitute for it, as Your Highnesses are doubtless aware, a system of security pacts which should apply the principle of compulsory arbitration only to certain definite territorial danger points.

But in the 6th Session of the Assembly, the Protocol of 1924 was so far from losing its friends that general sentiment was overwhelming in its favour. The sixth Session represented, in fact, a struggle between two competing ideas. On the one hand, were the supporters of the Protocol still unconvinced that their cherished dream was incapable of immediate realisation; on the other hand, were the supporters of the security pact, who believed that they could better advance the cause of peace by working for a strictly limited objective.

This grouping of opinion was important, for it had a very definite bearing upon the events of the session at which I was present. Despite the enormous practical difficulties involved, France found herself unable to withstand the immense moral force of the demand that the Protocol should be regarded as an ideal to be attained as quickly as possible. On the other hand, Great Britain stuck to her guns, severely criticising the Protocol and emphasising the practical advantages of the security pacts. In the event a compromise was arranged by which the League approved the principle of the security pacts with the rider that there was no necessity for them to be restricted to particular areas. But in the meanwhile, Great Britain had emerged as the principal antagonist of the Protocol. The unpopularity into

which she fell made her very chary of opposing several projects upon the agenda, which she would, in other circumstances, have attacked with some force. Since these projects were unsound, they could not be allowed to pass unchallenged. But at the same time, to oppose them in the open Assembly was to incur the risk of a humiliating defeat. The obvious alternative was to secure their abandonment or elimination in the Committees which prepare the business for the final approval of the Assembly. It is for this reason that, during the session of 1925, the work transacted in the six Committees was, from the point of view both of British Empire and of India, far more important than that transacted in the plenary sessions of the Assembly.

I do not intend to repeat to Your Highnesses what I have written in the report concerning the questions on the agenda of particular interest to India, but Your Highnesses will perhaps be interested if I give a very brief account of the part which I personally took in the work of the Indian Delegation. As a result of a somewhat inconvenient last minute redistribution of activities, I found myself placed upon Committee 5 (Social and General) and upon Committee 6 (Political). Easily the most important question which came up before the latter was that connected with Lord Cecil's draft Protocol on Slavery. As a result of the report of the Temporary Slavery Commission, Lord Cecil had secured the permission of the British Government to bring forward a draft convention intended to facilitate the elimination of the slave trade and slavery as they exist in certain parts of the world. From the standpoint of India, the wording of the convention seemed unobjectionable; and the Government of India had by telegraph signified their agreement to the draft, with the reservation that they should not be expected to embark on the conquest of unexplored tracts inhabited by the primitive aboriginals, amongst whom slavery or practices akin to slavery might be believed to exist. Failing the possibility of this definite provision, the Government of India desired to reserve the right to exclude from the operations of the Convention areas not under their direct administration. I must confess that, in concert with the other members of the Indian Delegation, I regarded the proposed convention on Slavery with some misgivings. The part played in the domestic economy both of British India and the Indian States by practices of longstanding, which may appear to the eye of a Western observer, ignorant of Indian conditions, as akin either to forced labour or to predial service, is too obvious to need emphasis.

I must here invite Your Highnesses' attention to the difficulties constantly experienced by the representatives of India in making clear to Western eyes many of the practices and institutions which have been evolved by our characteristic civilisation. At Geneva the ignorance of India is so deep, the difficulty of imagining conditions differing from those of the individualistic civilisation of the West is so profound, that the attitude of an Indian representative is susceptible of great misinterpretation. Both Lord Willingdon and I myself feared that if there should be a protracted discussion upon the terms of the draft convention; and if idealists, more sanguine than wise, were to suggest amendments with the object of rendering its provisions more drastic, both the Indian Government and the Indian Princes might be placed in an extremely awkward position. Our fears were not unfounded. Before very long the drafting Committee excluded the phrase which the Government of India desired to insert. The situation thus became delicate. It was obviously impossible for the Government of India to refuse to sign a convention at once so humane and so laudable as that designed to suppress slavery; at the same time it was impossible that the admission of the Government of India should be considered binding upon the Indian States. For, quite apart from the question as to whether or not institutions akin to forced labour and predial servitude exist in certain of the remoter territories under the jurisdiction of Your Highnesses, it would have been quite impossible, considering the relations between the Indian States and the Government of British India, for the latter alone to have taken upon themselves the responsibility of forcing the provisions of such a convention upon the Indian States terri-



tories, over whose domestic concerns they have no control. And yet, how undesirable it would have been, specifically to exclude the Indian States by name from the scope of the Convention! This then was the difficulty with which we were confronted. Eventually after some elaborate negotiation, we were successful in devising a form of words which would enable any of the parties to the convention to declare that ratification was not binding as regards the enforcement of its provisions either upon the whole or any of the territories placed under its "sovereignty, jurisdiction and protection." This formula was, we were assured by our legal advisers, sufficient to safeguard the Indian Government in the desired direction. But the question of the slavery convention was complicated by the further question of compulsory or forced labour. Here again, we were successful in securing the acceptance of the principle that compulsory or forced labour should be admissible for public purposes. The result was that the draft convention, as it emerged from the Committee, was unobjectionable from the point of view of India. But the whole matter was obviously so delicate, that we welcomed a suggestion, emanating from the French Government, that the text of the convention should be circulated to the members of the League and to certain other States for their observation. For a more elaborate discussion of this very important question and for an indication of certain vital diplomatic questions which are involved, I would invite Your Highnesses to peruse the proper section of my written report.

The work upon Committee Five was in some respects even more important. So far as the first item upon the Agenda, the report of the Advisory Committee on Women and Children was concerned, there was no particular international complication. There was however a grave question of principle, namely, how far it was wise for international bodies to exercise a supervisory control over certain matters which under any reasonable classification must fall into the category of strictly domestic concerns. I am glad to be able to inform Your Highnesses that I was successful in securing a modification of the new and questionable activities which the Committee had proposed for itself, in such fashion as to guide its work into safe and sound channels. The representatives of the British Empire were kind enough to express to me their gratitude for the part which I had played in this particular matter. Had the programme of the Advisory Committee been placed before the Assembly in its original shape, the Empire Delegation would have found themselves in the false position of opposing in plenary session the work of an institution which, however injudicious its programme, was labouring for the good of humanity. This false position was happily avoided, and we were able to endorse without reservation the modified activity of the Committee.

Somewhat similar in its general lines was the work which I was compelled to do in connection with the Ciraolo Scheme in Committee Two. This fantastic project of an International Relief Union provides an excellent example of the tendency of the League to advance imperceptibly into the domestic sphere of the various national units. At the same time it illustrates the extraordinary difficulty experienced even by the greatest powers, in opposing projects of a kind calculated to appeal to humanitarian sentiments. Any practical-minded person examining the draft statutes of the Ciraolo scheme, could come only to one conclusion concerning the fantastic nature of the project; and yet no nation had shown itself possessed of moral courage openly to oppose the business when it was first placed upon the agenda of the Assembly. In 1925, there was an additional complication; since the Italian Government had at length been converted, by the energy and self-sacrifice of Senator Ciraolo, into earnest supporters of the scheme. Here again the British Government found itself in an awkward position. No one approved of the scheme except the Italian Government, who were likely to benefit under its provisions. At the same time no one cared to oppose it. The British Government was particularly reluctant to object to the scheme, for the pourparlers which have since then led the Italian Government into the security pact were at the moment in a delicate condition. At the same time, we could now allow this project to materialise. I am glad to be able to inform Your Highnesses that without in the slightest degree jeopardising

my cordial relations with the Italian representatives, I was able to demonstrate that the means proposed by Senator Ciraolo's scheme were not calculated to secure the ends which he had in view. My criticisms proved effective. A compromise resolution was prepared for submission to the Assembly, which directed the committee responsible for framing the scheme to take note of all the criticisms to which their work was subjected. Better still, to the resolution was added a rider that the International Relief Union if constituted at all, should be constituted by special arrangements between the various Governments. All those States which had regarded the scheme with justifiable apprehension found themselves enabled to support this emasculated version of it. Thus while Great Britain and India had escaped the necessity of opposing in open Assembly a favoured project of the Italian Government, we had been able, thanks to our work on the Committee, to secure ourselves from all undesirable consequences. I was so fortunate as to receive warm congratulations from the representatives of various countries both within and without the Empire, who were kind enough to say that the vigour with which I had criticised the scheme, coupled with my avoidance of all offence to the Italian Government, had prevented the development of what might well have been a very awkward situation.

I do not desire to trespass unduly on Your Highnesses' time and I will not therefore describe the somewhat complicated, but very interesting transactions, which took place regarding opium; regarding the allocation of the expenses of the League among the various member States; regarding the work of the International Health Organisation; regarding the work of the League for refugees; and regarding the presence of Indians in the Secretariat. I will only say that we have little to complain in the figure of which we are now assessed—a figure which is based upon the actual budget for British India. So far as the presence of Indians in the Secretariat of the League is concerned, we have not so far obtained any very definite satisfaction. But we have at least received the assurance from the responsible authorities that our undoubted claims will be kept most carefully in mind.

In concluding this portion of my speech, I should like to summarise the achievements of the 1925 session of the League. In the first place, as I have already informed Your Highnesses, we succeeded in effecting a compromise between the ideals embodied in the Protocol and the Security Pact. Since the time when the Assembly session was adjourned, the Rhineland Security Pact has been successfully negotiated. I am informed that there is every prospect of a special session of the League being held early this year for the formal admission of Germany. If this should occur, the 6th session of the Assembly may fairly claim to have taken one of the longest steps towards the rehabilitation of Europe since the termination of the Great War. The prospect of the entry of Germany into the League coupled with the conclusion of the Rhineland Security Pact, has prepared the way for a disarmament conference. During the 6th session of the Assembly, it was impossible to explore very closely the possibilities of disarmament, if only for the reason that Germany was still outside the League's organisation. But France in particular was very anxious that some sort of gesture should be made while the smaller nations of the League were emphatic in their demand that the question of disarmament should not be neglected. My own impression is that the European nations feared lest the initiative in this matter should pass from them into the hands of the United States of America. However this may be, the 6th Session of the Assembly has asked the Council to initiate the preliminary exploration work regarding armaments, which will have to be transacted before a disarmament conference can usefully be summoned.

Next comes the question of the International Economic Conference—a project somewhat suddenly sprung at the Assembly by France. While, undoubtedly, it is an excellent idea, since economic questions lie at the root of the majority of international disputes, it seems to require considerably more investigation than has hitherto been devoted to it. In my opinion the Assembly did wisely in referring it to the Council for examination and

approval. So far as the questions of particular interest to India are concerned, I think we have considerable grounds for satisfaction. The Indian delegation has made its influence felt; has maintained the prestige of the Country and has afforded valuable help to the Empire in several particulars. Here again, I would take the opportunity of referring Your Highnesses to my written report for further details.

I will now, with Your Highnesses' permission, indulge in certain general comments upon the League of Nations and upon its importance to us and to our Country. I am convinced from what I have seen that the League represents a most formidable force, a force which requires a serious eye if it is not to work harm. To be frank with Your Highnesses, I arrived at Geneva believing that the League of Nations was little better than an International talking-shop. I was not prepared to be impressed, nor was I prepared to regard my deputation as being anything more than some irksome duty, cheerfully undertaken for the service of my King and Country. But before the end of my Geneva session, I had modified my idea considerably. I found the League not only impressive but also to some extent alarming, at least in its potentialities. The momentum supplied by public opinion is so tremendous, the enthusiasm and the driving force are so great, that I tremble to think what may happen if the influence wielded by the League should fall into weak or injudicious hands. Possibly my feeling in this direction was to some extent accentuated by the gross ignorance everywhere prevalent concerning India and the East. The League is at present entirely dominated by men of democratic views; there is scarcely a statesman in Europe who seems to have any adequate conception of our communal life or of our ultra-mundane philosophy. It was with the greatest surprise that my newformed friends learnt of the scientific value of hereditary nation-building, as exemplified in our caste system. While they were prepared to admit a certain degree of merit in our ancient art and literature, they were utterly ignorant of our political organisation, of our economic tradition and of our socio-religious organisation.

It seems to me that this ignorance of India in particular, and East in general, when taken in conjunction with what I have already described as the formidable driving force of the League, presents a situation of which we are bound to take notice. I am convinced that the remedy lies in sending every year a strong Indian Delegation. This Delegation must, in the first place, be strong in numbers. Nothing struck me more than the contrast between our numbers in 1925 and that of the Delegations which are despatched from countries containing a hundredth of our area and a thousandth of our population. Of us, there were but three, with Sir Edward Chamier as a fourth under the title of substitute delegate. Now, quite small powers, such as Greece, Czecho-Slovakia, Norway, Belgium, and the like, send to Geneva Delegations which are at least thrice as numerous as those which represent India. I leave out of account great powers, such as France and Britain, whose delegates, substitute delegates, principal secretaries and the like are literally reckoned by the score. But even remote Japan find it desirable to send some 8 principal and 6 substitute delegates. If it be asked for what reason so many principals necessary, I would reply by a reference to our own experience. The result of there being only 3 delegates and 1 substitute delegate were two-fold. In the first place, both I and my colleagues were grossly over-worked. Both in the Assembly and in the various Committees, the order of business can really be definitely ascertained not more than an hour or two in advance. It is therefore necessary for delegates to be present with a watching brief. They may or may not be called upon to speak, but unless they are there, there is nevertheless danger lest their case may go by default. Now it may perhaps be said that these are only routine matters. This is perfectly true, but at the same time they cannot be passed over. Quite frequently, if I may take a personal example, I found myself in Committee 5 from 10 o'clock in the morning until 8 in the evening with a short break of perhaps an hour for lunch and half an hour for tea. It is perfectly true that the session does not last very long and that the climate of Geneva,

though treacherous, is not unhealthy. Even so, hours like this, when they are repeated for a fortnight at a stretch, are not calculated to produce a clear head in emergency. But this over-working of each individual member of the Indian Delegation has further serious consequences. Most fortunately, none of us were in 1925 incapacitated by illness for very long. But accidents must be provided for; and had either Lord Willingdon or I myself or Sir Atul Chatterjee been laid up for any length of time, some very important business must necessarily have gone completely by default. All three of us together with Sir Edward Chamber, and Professor Rushbrook-Williams, who was my substitute on Committee 5, were worked to the utmost degree of endurance. If one of us had dropped out, his work could not possibly have been taken by the rest. Hence an under-staffed delegation is attended by a very real degree of danger. But there is a further, and perhaps, more serious consequence of sending to Geneva a delegation which is under-staffed. If the delegates are spending all their time on committee or in the Assembly, they have very little opportunity of indulging in what I may term unofficial diplomacy. Now, it is by dint of such intercourse that the most important business of the League is transacted. Nations come to agreement among themselves, compromises are effected, progress achieved, more by personal intercourse between the friendly delegates of different nations than by formal discussion in committee or in the Assembly. This is the reason why the small powers and, for the matter of that, the great ones, think it necessary to send such heavily staffed delegations to Geneva. Their aim, as it seems to me, is to secure the transaction of formal business in committee or in the Assembly, by their Senators, by their members of parliament, and their substitute delegates, while leaving their principal delegates free to lobby, to secure the wide diffusion of certain ideas, and to conclude informal agreements with the representatives of other powers. Throughout the history of the League, India has consistently suffered, I am credibly informed, by the fact that her representatives are too over-worked to take part in unofficial diplomatic intercourse. My own observation has convinced me of the truth of this remark. If I may venture to put forward my opinion, it is that in addition to having 3 principal delegates, we should have at least 4 substitute delegates, competent to take their principal's place in any emergency and to transact the routine business, which rightly occupies so much time during a session of the League. With this delegation which, as I have already pointed out, should be 7 in number, there should be a strong Secretariat, which should include at least 2 reserves in cases of illness. During the 1925 session of the Assembly, the Secretariat of the Indian Delegation was consistently and cruelly over-worked. It bore the strain with fortitude; but I am bound to record my opinion that in certain respects the efficiency undeniably suffered.

But I would ask Your Highnesses to bear with me while I explain that I am convinced that, in addition to strengthening the Indian Delegation so far as numbers are concerned, we should make it more fully Indian in composition. Hitherto the Indian Delegations of the League have been representative rather of the India Office, or even of Whitehall in general, than of the Indian Government. In this connection I was greatly struck by the frequent comment of my foreign friends. Time and time again, I was asked why the Indian Delegation was not composed entirely of Indians. Personally I should like deliberately to record my opinion that no head of a delegation could have been more sympathetic, more courteous, or more charming than Lord Willingdon. His tact, his kindness, his geniality, combined with his knowledge of India, were an asset, which we know well how to value. But even these rare qualifications did not prevent my foreign acquaintances from commenting upon the composition of the Indian delegation.

There is also much to be said, if we may judge from the precept and practice of foreign delegations, for reasonable continuity of personnel.

Your Highnesses will, I am sure, agree with me in thinking that we are fortunate in the fact that His Highness of Nawanagar has been thrice our representative upon the League. He has himself, in his most lucid and valuable Reports, laid stress upon the importance of providing continuity of experience. There is much of a technical nature which a delegate can only learn by practice; there is more to be learned concerning the questions which arise year by year for the consideration of the League. But above all, a delegate who comes to the Assembly more than once finds friends everywhere among other delegations; he can readily persuade them to agree with his proposals; he can soften differences of opinion, and win adherents to the cause of his Country. In mentioning this point, I am following the lead of my most distinguished colleague and revered friend His Highness the Jam Maharaj and I know that His Excellency the Viceroy will not suspect me of introducing any matter of a personal nature, or of angling for an invitation to represent India next year!

It will be clear to Your Highnesses from what I have said, that in my judgment the League of Nations represents an institution possessing potentialities of the greatest and most serious importance both to the Ruling Princes and to India as a whole. Quite apart from the desirability of securing a due representation of India's culture and of India's characteristic outlook in the counsels of an institution which embodies more directly the ideals and aspirations of present day humanity than any other, it seems to me important to remember that the experience acquired through work upon the League of Nations is likely to assist in the solution of certain of our own domestic problems. At Geneva the representatives of India have the opportunity of mixing with the best known statesmen of the world; they have an opportunity of meeting upon familiar and informal terms those whose names are household words to every educated man. They also have the opportunity—and it should be their proudest privilege of upholding the dignity of Eastern culture and Eastern thought in the eyes of Western civilization; of inculcating the lesson that humanity is one and indivisible; and that there can be no real progress towards the dawn of universal peace save a progress in which East and West jointly co-operate.

I cannot close these remarks without paying my meed of tribute to my colleagues. Of Lord Willingdon I have already spoken, and I need not further emphasise my appreciation of his personality and of his work. Sir Atul Chatterjee and Sir Edward Chamier were our guides, philosophers and friends in the spheres respectively of economics and of jurisprudence. Mr. Patrick of the India Office who acted as Secretary to the Delegation, earned the gratitude of all of us by his hard work. I must further express my personal appreciation of the kindness of Lord Lytton, of Sir Alexander Muddiman, and of Colonel Patterson, in jointly placing at my disposal the services of Professor Rushbrook-Williams, who acted as my Political Secretary throughout my visit to Europe. Professor Rushbrook-Williams lightened my labours in many directions, and I came to rely much upon his knowledge of international politics, his friendship with British and foreign diplomats, his useful linguistic capabilities, and his genuine knowledge of, and affection for, the people and the culture of India.

With these words, I have the honour to present my Report to Your Highnesses.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:**—Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; We have a heavy programme of business to get through to-day, and so without going into the details of the various points touched on by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, I will proceed to move a hearty vote of thanks to His Highness on the interesting statement which he has just made in regard to his work at the fifth Assembly of the League of Nations. I am sure we have all listened with great interest to his statement.



This is not the first time that His Highness has gone across the seas on Imperial Missions. For it will be recalled that in the summer of 1918 when the Great War was still raging His Highness represented us at the Imperial War Cabinet and the Imperial War Conference. Last year, however, was the first time that His Highness attended to gain first hand insight into the working of the League of Nations; and it has been particularly interesting to me to listen to His Highness' remarks as the spade work which was done at Geneva last autumn has led to the Treaty of Locarno being concluded, from which the World hopes so much and it has undoubtedly advanced together with the action taken by the League in regard to the recent Greco-Bulgarian squabble or scrapping which had undoubtedly helped to enhance the reputation of the League of Nations. It will be recalled that in the year previous when I—also for the first time—attended the Fifth Assembly of the League, we in our turn dealt with what was then known as the "Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance" which in its turn was replaced by us by the "Draft Protocol on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes". His Highness of Patiala is, therefore, to be especially congratulated on his being associated with the labours of the memorable Session of the last Assembly.

His Highness also played an important part in Committee work. And we have read with great pleasure the eulogistic references in the Press, which testify to the ability with which His Highness piloted the various important problems affecting India.

I might perhaps be permitted to quote the following extract from one of the numerous interesting articles contributed in the *Times of India* by "A Cynic at Geneva". This is what he wrote:—

"Lord Willingdon and the Maharaja of Patiala shared political and social questions between them. The Maharaja, in particular, made a great impression by his clear common sense speeches, which, on at least one occasion, completely won the day and on another saved the whole Empire from the necessity of openly opposing a somewhat fantastic scheme backed by a great and friendly Power. It was a very remarkable achievement, and one of which India may well be proud. The Indian Delegation, in short, has worthily upheld the honour of the country. . . . no one who has watched the work of the Maharaja and of Sir Atul Chatterjee can entertain any serious doubts of the ability of India to supply Delegates who will compare favourably with those of any other country represented upon the League".

This is indeed high praise of which His Highness and we whom he represented may well be proud.

Those of us who have been to Geneva know that if a delegate intends to take his duties seriously and if he makes a point of sitting it out throughout the Session of the Assembly, as well as the various meetings of the Committees of which he may be a member, he is in any case laying himself out for no light task, and nothing is more tedious and boring than sitting for hours on end listening to long speeches, often on subjects with which one is not directly or at all concerned. It was not to be expected that the League of Nations and its Committees would turn out to be different to other institutions where numerous speeches—formal speeches—are made and where some gentlemen whom one cannot always successfully evade and who like to impress their colleagues and their audience with their oratorical powers for much longer than the occasion or the subject really calls for. But His Highness has been more unfortunate than I, at any rate, was, in that he had to face unusually strenuous work, having frequently to work, as the Press cables have informed us, and as His Highness has himself briefly stated, as many as 12 to 16 hours a day. The great strain which that involved can well be understood and for this His Highness has our sympathy and our admiration.

In moving this vote of thanks to His Highness of Patiala I am sure it will be the desire of this House to offer him our warm congratulations on the manner in which he has acquitted himself on this historical occasion and I should also like to be permitted to add my own felicitations.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; When a bald and plain statement on a subject that deals with matters in a totally different atmosphere five or six thousand miles away is brought before the Chamber for its consideration, it is generally and wisely placed by Your Excellency's Political Department in the Agenda after some question which is likely to raise a heated debate. On this occasion, however, we have commenced with the statement on the League, a subject which might ordinarily not interest Your Highnesses, who are absent not only from the place but also from the atmosphere. His Highness of Patiala like some of his predecessors, who have been to the League, has been able to arouse our enthusiasm and to awaken us from our slumber. His Highness has placed before all Your Highnesses his brief report, as he calls it, on the League of Nations Assembly. I have not had the opportunity to study it as I only had the pleasure of seeing it yesterday, but His Highness has given us a brief resume in his own speech of considerable interest. There are topics embodied in it that perhaps some Members might not have understood. I certainly did not realise all the various questions on the Agenda and their meaning. But nevertheless that is not the point. When I had the privilege of making a speech before Your Highnesses on a similar occasion, I tried to enlighten your interest with my experience of 17 banquets during the Imperial Conference. I see His Highness has been modest enough to refrain from mentioning any of them at this Chamber and from reiterating his experiences. Now, speaking in connection with the report of His Highness of Patiala the natural and formal thing to do is to indulge in platitudes. It reminds me of a Persian quotation :—

*“ Man tura haji bagoyam*

*Tu mara mulla bago.”*

It means that you say very nice things about me and I will say nice things about you. I am certainly not indulging in this privilege. I am going to show my feelings, if I can, from another consideration. His Highness has said in his report that he departed from here after a somewhat hurried programme, and that at the time he only had in his hand a skeleton Agenda. I fully sympathise with the difficulty which His Highness has expressed. In my case in connection with the Imperial Conference I had even departed from India and was actually enjoying my holidays in Scotland. I received the invitation which I was able to gladly accept there, particularly as the invitation referred to a Conference to take place some months hence. But I will sincerely support His Highness' statement for the consideration of Your Excellency and His Majesty's Secretary of State, that if possible the selection of the delegate who goes from India from the Indian Princes may be made in due time not only for the convenience of the Prince concerned, or Member or Members of the delegation concerned, but in order that on really important questions as His Highness has mentioned, they may have an opportunity of finding out the views of the Government of India before they attend these meetings, instead of having at the last moment, perhaps a few days beforehand, papers put into their hands. I hope Your Excellency will be good enough to pay due and serious consideration to the point raised by His Highness, with which I entirely agree, that the delegate selected on future occasions may have enough time to be able to consult some of the Indian Princes on subjects that are going to come before such an important gathering. It is not possible to consult all unless an emergency meeting of the Chamber is held. It would not be possible ordinarily to hold a special meeting of the Chamber to discuss such subjects, though that depends of course on the importance of the subjects before us. We see questions being discussed in the papers regarding the possibility of another Imperial

Conference, and the League to which I refer here is an annual institution to which I hope that Your Excellency and your successors will always be good enough to invite one of our Order to go on the delegation. So far as I can see there should be no difficulty in making the selection earlier than has been done in the past instances. In the case of my own experience at the Imperial Conference I discovered that the Members who came from the Dominions had not only ordinarily studied the papers of the Agenda, but had gone into the questions with their own Parliaments and consulted the representatives of their own constituencies, so that they were fully prepared to come before the Conference not only with their views but with the support behind them of the Parliament and the institutions which they represented. Apart from this reason, it will, I believe, lend weight to the opinions which the Prince or his brother delegate has to express at the League if he had the force behind him of the opinions of the Government of India regarding the questions that come up before the League. I cannot say, speaking with regard to the materials that His Highness has placed before us, that I am very well conversant with all the details. There is the perpetual opium question, then the drugs, the traffic in women, the protection of children, international relief, slavery, the settlement of refugees, and then there was some talk of conventions and Protocol. I am afraid in regard to the last word my knowledge of English did not help me to realise its significance. I sought the assistance of the Secretary of the Chamber who has informed me that it means something pasted on as a draft. The word is made from two Greek words. However, so far as I have been able to understand it, it means something in the form of a draft: only so far have I been able to secure information with regard to the word 'protocol'. But all these questions, however unimportant or important they may seem to us, they come before the League of Nations. I should like to refer also to the important question that His Highness referred to in his oration as having been indemnified for his visit to Geneva. I entirely agree with His Highness that no such indemnity should be paid, but I think really the word requires correction, if I may say so. For it sounds somewhat as if you were compensated for a trip that you made to another country or another place. The object of placing funds at the disposal of the delegate going to the League or to any of these Imperial gatherings or to the International gatherings is, as far as I can understand, to treat the delegate with honour as a guest. We have also got to remember that some day Your Highnesses may choose one of your Representative Members to go to the League of Nations and in that case it may consist of some, none of those present here, of the members of our constituents who would not be able to afford the passages and all the necessary expenses that the Patiala State could afford very easily. Therefore, I agree that the Prince going there should not be indemnified. But at the same time if the British Government makes arrangements for him, no doubt the term could be altered and suitable arrangements could be made. I also agree entirely with His Highness in the suggestion that he has made that a strong delegation should be selected next time for going to the League. Of course that did not imply, and I feel sure that it was no reflection on His Highness' part, that his delegation was a weak one. As we know from the elaborate report he has made, it was indeed a very strong one, but what was in His Highness' mind I really can understand,—that it should consist of more staff and of more officers on the Secretariat who should assist the delegation in their work and also perhaps in case they had ailments. And the one question I should like in connection with this also to refer to Your Excellency is that when such delegation is appointed, the Government of India, without committing themselves in any way, which of course they could not, might discuss the constitution of the delegation in consultation with one or two principal members selected in order that there may be harmonious co-operation and that the members supporting such a delegation might consist of those who might be as useful as His Highness has related was the case in relation to Mr. Rushbrook-Williams. His Highness then referred in his speech to the Indian Delegation from India consisting of Indians. That is a matter regarding which I am not sure that the time has yet arrived, I



personally, of course, desire to say that I would be prepared to support His Highness. But this is a question for the consideration of Your Excellency's Government and for the consideration, perhaps, nay certainly, of Your Excellency's successor. Now I come to the end of my speech, and with these words I conclude. I have referred to the subject that His Highness had to deal with when going to the League. Important as they may be or unimportant as they may be, we are actually to place them as they may seem to us in this Chamber. Nevertheless the conception of the League is, as His Highness has stated that it should lead to universal peace, and universal peace cannot be arrived at until there is universal understanding. Indeed it is a very high and noble ideal to aim at. Whether it will be achieved or not is not possible to say, but the world is no doubt enlarging in that direction. For from the small and limited world, so-called in the old days, of separate communities, we see it is now enlarging into provinces and states, and those states are now putting their heads together and becoming in common matters more and more international. And those international questions are bound to increase and enlarge until they become universal. Therefore, while it may be possible that ordinarily viewing the situation, the League might seem to us, situated so far away, not such an important institution, yet I believe personally that great minds have conceived a great ideal and that the result, as in all such big things, will prove to be with time. It is to such an institution, Your Highnesses, where Your Highnesses' representative, selected by Your Excellency, has just been. It is to such an institution for the enhancement of the peace of the world and for bringing the various nations more closely together gradually that our ambassador has gone from here to represent us. It is a question on which I feel sure Your Highnesses will feel glad that he has been able to perform his task in a manner not only worthy of compliment but also of our sincere appreciation and gratitude.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** Your Highnesses : It is unnecessary for me to say that I associate myself and my Government very cordially and wholeheartedly with the vote of thanks, which is proposed to His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala. I am myself very conscious of the excellent work that has been done by the Delegation of which he was so important a member and I do think that thanks are due to him. He has read a very interesting report and raised a number of questions, several of which are matters of high policy that cannot be easily discussed or considered in debate in the limited time at our disposal. But I can assure him that, so far as I am concerned, though I can only give a limited time and shall not be here to deal with them later, nevertheless the matter must be very carefully considered by my Government and also by my successor, because I can depend upon him, in view of his past services which, I may be allowed to say, have been very useful, that every care will be given to its consideration. I do not think it is necessary to put this to vote as I am quite sure that the vote of thanks will be carried not only unanimously but enthusiastically and I assume therefore that Your Highnesses are all in favour of the vote of thanks to His Highness of Patiala.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; As we have four more subjects for which we have less than an hour, I have a slight modification to propose in the procedure observed when the first report of the Standing Committee is placed before Your Highnesses. We have in the past reviewed the work of the Standing Committee and placed before the House the salient features relating to such work during the preceding 12 months, but if it will meet with the wishes of His Excellency the President and of Your Highnesses, I would ask for it to be taken as read on this occasion. It will be printed in the proceedings and you will see it tomorrow. There is nothing special in the work of the past 12 months for which it is necessary for me to take up your time. Will it meet with Your Excellency's wishes?

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** Yes.

### Agendum No. 3.

#### *Report of the Standing Committee regarding tours and visits abroad of Ruling Princes and Chiefs.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; On presenting this the first report of the Standing Committee since the Chamber last met, it is necessary that I should briefly review the work of the Standing Committee during the past 14 months.

Since the Chamber met in November 1924 the usual two annual meetings of the Standing Committee have been held. The first was in Delhi in February 1925, when the following subjects were dealt with:—

1. Tours and Visits abroad of Ruling Princes and Chiefs.
2. Radio Broadcasting in British India and its application to Indian States.
3. Exclusion of Jamnia and Nimkhera from the list of lesser States in Central India.
4. Terminology and Phraseology used in the Departments of the Government of India with reference to Indian States.
5. Reciprocity in the execution of decrees.
6. Question of the extension of the Fugitive Offenders' Act of 1881 to Indian States and Administered Areas.
7. Railway Jurisdiction in Indian States.
8. Question of giving publicity to the Proceedings of the Chamber of Princes.

Of these the reports relating to the first three Questions will be presented to Your Highnesses during our present Session.

Consideration of the agenda relating to—

- (1) Publicity of Chamber Proceedings, and
- (2) Terminology and Phraseology

was deferred till the next meeting of the Standing Committee when it was hoped a large number of Princes would be present.

As regards the Question of Reciprocity in the execution of decrees, the Committee were of opinion that the adoption of a general system of reciprocity did not appear to be feasible and that such reciprocity must be purely a matter of individual convenience and choice in regard to which individual negotiation should be resorted to. The Committee thought that a previous reference on the subject to all the States which had already tentatively entered into such a reciprocal agreement was advisable and, therefore, deferred consideration of the question until replies were received and views elicited from the States concerned.

With reference to the question of the extension of the Fugitive Offenders Act the Committee did not consider the proposal as desirable or necessary.

The Question of Cession of Jurisdiction over Railway lands in Indian States was taken up and the points discussed were asked to be embodied in a Note to be prepared by the Railway Board for circulation to the members of the Standing Committee, and the matter has again to come up before the Committee.

The Standing Committee next met at Simla in September, 1925, when the questions mentioned below were taken up:—

1. Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony.
2. Assessment of Compensation for lands taken up for Railway purposes.
3. Amendment of Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members.
4. Postal and Telegraph transactions in Indian States.
5. Publicity of Chamber Proceedings.
6. Construction of Tramways.
7. Riparian rights.
8. Terminology and Phraseology.
9. Question of standardising Ceremonial programmes.

Of the above mentioned questions the first three will also be presented to Your Highnesses during this Session whilst the subjects of:—

Postal and Telegraph transactions;  
Publicity of Chamber Proceedings;  
Construction of Tramways;  
Terminology and Phraseology; and  
Cereemonials

are still under the consideration of the Standing Committee.

The question of the extension of the provisions of the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881, to Indian States was again referred to the Standing Committee on this occasion when the Hon. Mr. Thompson made some suggestions for achieving the object the Government of India had in view, but the Princes were unable to commit themselves to any view or to take part in discussions on that item on that occasion.

On the question of Riparian rights the Standing Committee had some preliminary discussion with a view to settling future plans and procedure and suggested that a Summary for the guidance of the Special Committee which Your Highnesses appointed in November 1924 might be prepared by the Government of India.

As it would be a waste of the time of Your Excellency and Your Highnesses to go in detail into every one of the various recommendations of the Committee on the different subjects which were taken up by us, I will merely add that the Summaries as revised by the Committee dealing with the various questions concerned which are to be presented with each of these reports, will make the Committee's recommendations amply clear and that where there is anything of special importance particularly worthy of being brought to notice, I shall allude to it when presenting the report.

And now in presenting to the Chamber the Report of the Standing Committee regarding Tours and Visits abroad of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs, I would remind Your Highnesses that our first Report on the subject was presented and generally approved by Your Highnesses at the Princes' Conference in November, 1919, before the institution of the Chamber of Princes. Subsequently it was noticed that in the Government of India Resolution No. 587-R., dated the 29th August, 1921, a new paragraph 4 (1), regarding which no details were either placed before, or discussed at any time by, the Committee when it dealt with this question, had been added; and consequently this paragraph was not of course even considered by Your Highnesses when according your general approval to the Committee's Report. This subsequently inserted paragraph ran as below:—

“(1) The Government of India would be glad if Rulers of States, who wish to travel abroad, would inform them of the period for which they will be absent from India, and of the arrangements which they propose for the administration of their States during this period.”

I, therefore, felt it my duty as Chancellor to point out these facts to the Political Secretary. I also emphasised that it was very desirable that summaries which were prepared for the consideration of the Chamber of Princes should be complete as far as possible, as they are prepared as material on which the Princes' advice is desired and it is important that the Princes should be in a position to consider the whole case on which their advice is invited. The Political Secretary agreed.

This led to the question being again dealt with in the Standing Committee in November, 1922, when it was deferred for further consideration at the next meeting.

The question consequently came up before the Standing Committee in August, 1924, and again on the 18th February, 1925, when the Political Secretary explained the position to the Princes and pointed out how awkward situations might arise if a Ruling Prince were to visit England without His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor or the Secretary of State knowing and also how similar situations might arise were he to visit foreign countries and that it was, therefore, desirable, as a matter of

courtesy, that a Ruling Prince should inform the Government of India of his intention to leave India.

It was also pointed out by Colonel Patterson, who was then officiating Political Secretary and who is now Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana and it was also placed on record in the Committee's proceedings that there was no intention of placing any restrictions on the movements of the Ruling Princes.

On this distinct understanding the Standing Committee accordingly agreed to the insertion of the following clause:—

“ The Government of India would appreciate it if Rulers of States who wish to travel abroad would inform them of the approximate period for which they are likely to remain absent from India and of the arrangements which they propose to make for the conduct of official business with the Government of India during their absence.”

Since the change at the end explains itself and is now also not open to objection; I would move that the Chamber do accord general approval to the Committee's Report.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** There is only one remark to add and it is hardly necessary for me to explain to Your Highnesses the necessity for the supply of the information which was asked by the Government, because it must be understood there is a special responsibility on the Government of India to watch over the administration of the State during a Ruler's absence and therefore it is very desirable that we should get the information before and not after a Ruler has gone abroad. I assume that the Resolution should therefore be accepted with the modifications as suggested by His Highness the Chancellor.

### Agendum No. 9.

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner regarding the appointment of a Committee to consider (i) the best means of safeguarding the interests of Indian States in cases of enquiry into matters of common interest to British India and the States, and (ii) what machinery should be devised for giving effect to the proposal in paragraph 311 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report regarding joint deliberations.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; The Resolution which stands in my name reads as follows:—

“ That a Committee be appointed consisting of Princes and Ministers, to consider in consultation with Representatives of the British Government and, to report to the Chamber of Princes—

- (1) the best means of safeguarding the interests of the Indian States on occasions when an enquiry is undertaken into matters of common interest to the States and to British India, and
- (2) what machinery should be devised for giving effect to the proposal contained in paragraph 311 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report regarding joint deliberations ”.

2. It is necessary that I should at the outset give a brief history of the subject; and in this connection I would first remind the House that in the ‘ Outlines of the Scheme ’ prepared by the Committee of Princes which was elected by Your Highnesses in November 1917, with the express object of formulating proposals in connection with the necessary and important reforms affecting the States—which it is gratifying to find are all embodied in Chapter X of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report—the following paragraphs bearing on the subject under discussion are published in the Explanatory Note—

“ Committee of Reference for matters of Joint Interest ”.

“ This proposal has reference to the protection and guardianship of Imperial interests and matters of common concern to British Provinces and Indian States in regard to which the States have hitherto had no voice.

There are important subjects dealt with by the Government of India which are of common interest both to British India and the Indian States. A change in the tariffs, a modification in the currency policy, readjustment of the salt tax, a decision on questions of emigration and immigration, the efficient and progressive administration of the Posts, Telegraph and Railway Departments, all these affect the peoples of the States almost as much as they do those of British India. The effects of these decisions are not less real or onerous for the reason that they operate only indirectly on the people of the States."

The following was the actual proposal contained in the ' Outlines of the Scheme ' which the Princes on the Committee, after obtaining the views and suggestions of their Brother Princes, placed before Lord Chelmsford, who was then Viceroy, and Mr. Edwin Montagu, who was then Secretary of State, at Viceregal Lodge in Delhi in February, 1918 :—

" In view of the long felt need that the Indian States should have an adequate voice in matters affecting them either in their individual relations with British India or in matters which affect them jointly with British India, a Joint Committee shall be constituted composed of representatives nominated by the Chamber of Ruling Princes and an equal number of delegates selected by the Government of India from the Legislature concerned. To this Committee shall be referred for expression of opinion all questions coming before any Legislature, Imperial or Provincial, the determination of which may affect the interests of all or any of the States in India. The reference in each case shall be answered and the report of the Committee duly considered before a final decision is taken by the Legislature concerned."

In the course of the discussion, which then ensued, it will suffice to mention, as then explained by me that "the scheme put forward was only an outline and that it must necessarily be elastic. The Ruling Princes were not in a position to make definite suggestions, but they did not want to be mixed up with Legislative or other bodies in British India, since the outcome of that might be mutual interference in one another's affairs. The main point was that facilities should be given for consultation in some form or other "

Ultimately the proposal found a place in para. 311 of the Joint Report from which the following extract will suffice for the purpose :—

" Our last proposal is intended to provide some means of deliberation between the Government of India and the Princes on matters of common interest to both, and so to ensure that as far as possible decisions affecting India as a whole shall be reached after the views of the Darbars have been taken into account. In the past it certainly has occasionally happened that the States were vitally affected by decisions taken without reference to them; and yet no machinery for such collective consultation with them has hitherto existed. It seems to us that they have a clear right to ask for it in the future. We have abandoned for the present all consideration of suggestions that the Ruling Princes, or some representatives of their Order, should be members of the Council of State. Not only would this at the present stage infringe the doctrine of non-interference on the part of the Princes in the affairs of British India, but we are satisfied that few, if any, of the Princes themselves are ready for such a step. On the other hand, it seems to us that, when a Council of Princes has been established, and when a Council of State . . . created, the machinery will exist for bringing the senatorial institutions of British India into closer relations when necessary with the Rulers of the Native States. Matters affecting the Native States generally, or the Native States and British India in common, or the Empire, might, as we have seen, be referred to the Council of Princes.

It would thus be possible for the Viceroy, when he thought fit, to arrange for joint deliberation and discussion between the Council of State and the Council of Princes, or between representatives of each body”.

When the various reforms proposed in Chapter X of the Joint Report were placed on the Agenda of the Princes’ Conference in January 1919, His Excellency the Viceroy in the course of his opening speech referring to this particular question said—

“Your Highnesses will recollect that in dealing with the constitution of British India we have proposed in the Joint Report a Council of State, which, to use the words of the Report, “shall take its part in ordinary Legislative business and shall be the final Legislative authority in matters which the Government regards as essential”.

What we have in view is to provide means of deliberation between the Government of India and Your Highnesses on matters of common interest by joint deliberation and discussion between the Council of State and the Council of Princes or between representatives of each body. Such joint deliberation would take place only at the instance of the Viceroy and it will be obvious that in making use of the provision the Viceroy would attach the greatest weight to any wishes which Your Highnesses might from time to time express in the matter. The arrangement would be permissible only and at the outset I suggest that simplicity and freedom from restrictions will be a supreme merit of a scheme, which rightly used, may well hold a rich store of benefit for this great country which we all love and in which the Princes and Chiefs have a joint heritage with the peoples of British India.”

The Princes at that Conference resolved—

“that this Conference recommend that the consideration of the question of the means to be provided for joint deliberation between the Government of India and the Princes on matters of common interest to both, should be postponed until the Chamber of Princes and Chiefs has been established and until the result of the proposals made for the introduction of Reforms in British India is definitely known.”

This is where the matter now stands. The pre-occupations of the War and its after-math have in themselves kept us all more than occupied. The Chamber of Princes only came into being in February 1921, when at the same time effect was given to the memorable Declaration of the Policy of His Majesty’s Government of the 20th August 1917 for constitutional advance in India by the inauguration by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught of the Council of State and the Imperial Legislative Assembly. And although the Princes and States would have found it beneficial to their interests had some machinery been devised and effect been given before now in regard to the question of joint deliberations, the delay might perhaps also bring some compensating advantages. We have had breathing space to watch the working of the Chamber of Princes and the Princes’ Standing Committee on the one side, and the working of the Imperial Legislatures on the other; and there is little doubt that we shall now be in a better position to consider the question fully in all its bearings and to devise some machinery for giving effect to the objects with which this Resolution has to-day been moved.

In the meanwhile I may observe that the matter has not been lost sight of. In my speech, when taking part in the debate in this Chamber in February 1923 in regard to the Indian States (Protection against disaffection) Bill, I ventured to make the following observations :—

“I cannot help thinking that if there were some suitable machinery in existence at the time when this unfortunate controversy arose, whereby joint deliberations could have been held between the representatives of the Imperial Government, of the Princes and of the Imperial Legislatures for the purpose of discussing matters of Imperial or joint interest, some at least of the difficulty and misunderstanding which surrounded this matter, might have been avoided to the great advantage of every body concerned.”



After referring very briefly to the past history of the case I added that I had raised the point in our Standing Committee in November 1922 and expressed the hope that a scheme would be evolved and discussed in the Chamber before long, which would meet with such cases and emergencies in the future.

I think, however, that there can be no question that the time has now arrived—and if anything is overdue—when all of us concerned should give this matter, which so closely concerns the interests of the Princes, their Governments and their subjects—and I venture to add the interests of the Imperial Government—the earnest, considered and urgent attention which it now demands.

Important decisions taken by the Government of India or by His Majesty's Government, and the policy formulated and the line of action followed in British India, very often closely affects the Indian States and their interests. These range over a wide field, some of which even directly and others often indirectly affect the Indian States.

I do not think I need take up any more time in dilating upon the necessity for joint deliberations. Nor need I dwell at length on the need for considering and devising the best means of safeguarding the interests of the Indian States on occasions when an enquiry is undertaken into matters of common interest to States and British India. The difficulties experienced by the States in getting the evidence of their Ministers and others concerned recorded before the Fiscal Commission are of recent origin. Such Commissions and Committees are not infrequently appointed by the British Government—for instance one such Commission, *viz.*, the Currency Commission has not yet concluded its labours—and deals with matters which closely affect the States and their subjects. Enquiries by Royal Commissions or Committees appointed in India generally also have a direct or indirect bearing on the problems of Indian States. And here I am sure that it would be the desire of the Princes of India—both those present here and those who have been unable to come—that I should tender to Your Excellency our very sincere and grateful thanks for your acceding to the request which I submitted to you as Chancellor for the representation of the Indian States on the Indian Sandhurst Committee by the nomination of Major Zorawar Singhji of Bhavnagar.

In certain quarters the view is held that the only adequate method of safeguarding the interests of the Indian States on occasions when an enquiry is undertaken into matters of common interest is that His Excellency the Viceroy should be pleased to provide for the representation of Indian States on the personnel of all Royal Commissions as well as on all Commissions and Committees of enquiry appointed in India, to investigate matters in which the States are concerned. The advantages of such a procedure are obvious; and I think I have sufficiently spoken on this aspect of the question already. In some other quarters the apprehension is entertained that it might be unwise for the Indian States and dangerous as regards their Constitutional position and sovereign rights, for them to take part in such Commissions and enquiries by direct representation. But I submit that the wording of my Resolution is not only non-controversial but that it will serve the very object we have in view, *viz.*, that the Committee, which I moved should be appointed, consisting of Princes and Ministers, should consider in consultation with representatives of the British Government, what are the *best means* of safeguarding the interests of the Indian States when such enquiries are undertaken in matters of common interest; and any dangers to the Princes and States will no doubt be duly taken note of by such a Committee in the course of their investigations and, we hope, also adequately provided for.

It only remains for me to emphasize that in moving this Resolution regarding joint deliberations, and the consideration of the question as to what would be the best means of safeguarding the interests of the States in enquiries of common concern, we are actuated by no unfriendliness whatever to our brother Indians in British India, nor are we actuated by any desire

to retard the advance of constitutional progress therein. It has already been publicly declared on our united behalf in the past that we have no desire to encroach upon the domestic affairs of British India, any more than we want anybody from outside our States to interfere with the affairs of our own States and our Governments. All that we desire is to safeguard the interests of our States and our subjects where they directly or indirectly involved and this is the object and the scope of my Resolution which, I am confident, will be in accord with Your Highnesses' views

In asking for the concurrence of this House to this Resolution, I also propose that the following be appointed on the Committee:—

Princes—

1. His Highness the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.
3. His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.
4. His Highness the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar; and
5. The Mover.

Ministers—

6. One representative of the Mysore State.
7. Sir Manubhai Mehta of Baroda.
8. Colonel K. N. Haksar of Gwalior.
9. Sir Prabha Shankar Pattani of Bhavnagar; and
10. Professor Rushbrook Williams of Patiala.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala:** I rise to second the Resolution moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner. His Highness has divided the Resolution into two parts. Part I relates to the best means of safeguarding the interests of Indian States in cases of enquiry into matters of common interest to British India and the States.

Part II refers to the machinery to be devised for giving effect to the proposal in paragraph 311 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report regarding joint deliberation.

I will deal with both parts in order of sequence. From time to time the Government of India or the Secretary of State embarks through the agency of Royal Commissions or Committees on the investigation of problems of all-India character, that is to say, which have a bearing not only on conditions existing in British India but in which the interests of the Indian States are also directly or indirectly involved. Take, for instance, defence, tariffs, exchange, opium, salt, Railways and posts and telegraphs. The result of enquiries into such subjects very often leads up to momentous decisions affecting the whole of India including the Indian States. Without in the least insinuating that the vital interests of the Indian States are lost sight of it is obviously desirable that the Indian States should ordinarily be assigned a direct representation in such commissions or media of enquiry. The findings or recommendations of a commission or committee which includes the representatives of British India and Indian States are bound to carry a greater weight in both parts of the country and cannot be regarded as *ex parte* by any of the two important sections of the body politic of India. Moreover, the task of the Government of India in founding their policy on such recommendations would be infinitely lightened.

Part II of His Highness of Bikaner's Resolution is based on the observations contained in paragraph 311 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report.

The two eminent authors of the Report evidently contemplated joint deliberation between this Chamber or its representatives and the British Indian Legislature in matters of common interest. Hitherto, no machinery has existed for implementing this eminently desirable proposal. It seems to me that the time is now ripe for taking a definite step in the direction indicated in the foregoing Report.

I, therefore, venture to support His Highness of Bikaner's proposal to appoint a committee to go into the whole subject carefully and thoroughly.



**His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur:** Your Excellency and Your Highnesses; Their Highnesses of Bikaner and Kapurthala have, in their very learned and well reasoned speeches, made out a good case for the appointment of a committee of this House to consider and report on the most important principles contained in this Resolution, and I only add my feeble voice to the need and urgency of the same.

The first part of the resolution relates to Royal Commissions on matters affecting the interests of the Indian States and British India alike. His Highness the mover, has very ably pointed out, how on very important questions affecting the Indian States, *ex parte* decisions have in the past been given against them. The principle, if once admitted, will no doubt be applicable to all institutions of an all-India nature.

Your Excellency, the interests of Indian States and British India are so mixed up, and their general prosperity is so dependant upon each other, that it is only right, that questions of common application should be settled by mutual agreement. The practice of passing *ex parte* decrees should cease, and the element of responsibility and co-operation should be introduced. The Government of India under Your Excellency's able guidance has given some protection to Indian Princes by passing the Prince's Protection Act. Your Excellency has lately given proof of your sympathy towards our subjects while nominating members to the Sandhurst Committee. Your Excellency has also set an excellent example by giving some representation to Indian States on the Indian Cotton Committee. But, on larger questions, affecting our well-being, we have all along remained unrepresented. The Tariff Board, the Fiscal and Industrial Commissions are but a few out of the many occasions on which we have been totally ignored.

The recent announcement made by Your Excellency regarding the appointment of an Agricultural Commission has filled the hearts of those who live upon agriculture, with joy and hope. But Your Excellency, these feelings will be turned into sorrow and despair, if Indian States are ignored on this occasion as well. This is not the time for me to give figures for our share in agricultural produce of the country, but this much I would urge, that agricultural prosperity of British India is so bound up with that of the Indian States, that they must go together or not move at all. India cannot ensure unmixed cotton to the manufacturer abroad, so long as Indian States also do not use the same pure seed which the departments of agriculture advocate in British India. You cannot increase your supply of good breed of cattle so long as the same measures are not taken simultaneously in the Indian States. Similarly, you cannot free your cattle from infectious diseases so long as the Indian States are not working on the same lines to prevent the spread of such infections. All these are examples to show how we can even impede the progress in British India if we are neglected.

This much about the first part. Now the second part of the resolution is only a reminder to the Government of India of their promise made in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report. The harm done to us in the past is indescribable. In theory we are supposed to be independant of the Indian Legislature, and are supposed to be the guardians of our subjects, and as such we alone are entitled to tax them. But what do we find in practice? Acts passed by the Indian Legislature although alleged to apply to British India alone, are, in practice, applicable to our States in equal force. Most of the Indian States, for example, have entered into Salt Treaties with the Imperial Government in the past, and they are all affected equally along with the British Indian subjects by the increase and decrease of the Salt Tax which is sanctioned by the Indian Legislature from time to time. Again, we are sometimes informed of the embargo on wheat, and at others we are asked to pay heavy sums in order to support a certain Iron Factory. These are hard facts. But there are other big questions for which joint deliberations contemplated in part 2 of the resolution are essential. We are accused of levying Customs duties on our exports and imports. We are asked to forego this income in order to save the consumer from double taxation. But, are we ever given an account of the customs income of the

Government of India, which should legally be used for the benefit of the whole of India, including Indian States. We have to pay heavy tax on foreign machinery and goods merely for bringing the same through British Indian territory.

Examples like this could be multiplied, but in my humble opinion, the peace of the country could better be secured, if we took common measures to suppress crime and could have a common policy of improving our communications and sources of electric-power and irrigation. We have indeed left the old times of seclusion behind, and neither can Indian States afford to be self-contained, nor can British India afford to ignore them. Therefore, it is high time that the two questions referred to in the Resolution, be seriously considered by a Committee of this House jointly with representatives of the Government of India and measures taken to ensure harmonious working in the future.

Indeed, His Highness the Chancellor has done a real service to our Order by bringing forward this resolution, and I trust, that we shall give our unanimous support to this very important motion. I also hope, that the Government of India will give their sanction to the principles underlying the representations, and give practical proof of their sympathy and love towards the subjects of Indian States. I may tell Your Excellency, and through you the Government of India, that the subjects of Indian States have at all times shed their precious blood in the defence of the Empire, and are, as such, if not more, devoted than their brethren in British India, to His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor. We only claim to be regarded as members of the same family, and while we have shared with our brethren across our borders the burdens of British India, we can fairly claim this co-option as our right.

With these few words, I beg to support the resolution so ably moved by His Highness of Bikaner.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** So far as I can gather there seems to be unanimity with regard to the observations, none of Your Highnesses proposing any amendments. I therefore presume that Your Highnesses are in favour of the Resolution as proposed by His Highness the Chancellor that a Committee be constituted including Princes and Ministers. I take it that the Resolution is carried and will now form a subject of discussion with the Government of India.

I would only like to say, and I am sure, I am giving of course the views of Your Highnesses, that it has really been a pleasure to hear the speech of His Highness of Bharatpur, and though he has trespassed upon the patience of this House, he has given us a most instructive and informative and a well reasoned speech.

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#### Agendum No. 4.

*Report of the Standing Committee regarding Radio broadcasting in British India and its application to Indian States.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; It will be recalled that at the last session of the Chamber His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala kindly undertook to present the Reports of the Standing Committee in regard to those subjects which were dealt with during the Session of the Committee in Simla in August 1924 at the time when I was away at the League of Nations Assembly. His Highness in presenting the Report of that Meeting in regard to Radio broadcasting observed that the question was an entirely technical one involving technical as well as administrative and political considerations and that the Committee therefore felt that in order to arrive at satisfactory conclusions it was essential that the whole question should first be explained in greater detail to them by the technical officers concerned. On His Highness' motion the question was referred back by the Chamber to the Standing Committee for being further considered with the aid of the scientific knowledge of technical officers.

This was accordingly done at a Meeting of the Standing Committee on the 19th February, 1925, in the light of a memorandum, which is attached to this Report, and which had been prepared by Commander Nicholson, Director of Wireless.

The Committee generally agreed with the suggestions put forward in paragraph 8 of the Director's Memorandum on the clear understanding that the arrangements suggested by the Director of Wireless were to be on a reciprocal basis as outlined in paragraph 7 and that the respective States will exercise control over the conditions of the licenses granted by them.

It would perhaps be as well if I were to quote paragraph 8 of the suggestions of the Director of Wireless. It runs as follows :—

“ 8. It is therefore suggested that Indian States should :—

- (a) grant broadcast receiver licenses subject to such conditions as the State thinks fit, observing that the procedure and conditions applicable to British India would possibly be equally applicable in most Indian States, with such modifications as may be found necessary;
- (b) charge an annual fee for each broadcast receiver license:
- (c) pay a share of this fee to any broadcasting station which although operating in British India does in fact serve an Indian State.”

The Committee also suggested that the Indian States might accept the license fee of Rs. 12, of which Rs. 10 (which is the minimum estimate for an efficient service) might accrue to the broadcasting Company.

I must add that as they had no personal experience of Radio Broadcasting the Committee placed it clearly on record that “ any conclusions arrived at might require revision in the light of future experience ”.

I would therefore move that the Chamber do accord its general approval to the suggestions of the Committee.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** I take it that Your Highnesses approve the suggestions of the Committee. I have to agree with His Highness the Chancellor that the Government are also still very much in the dark in regard to these matters and any suggestion which is in the report now adopted must of course be subject to amendments in the future either by my Government or by the constituents of this Chamber.

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### Agendum No. 5.

*Report of the Standing Committee regarding wireless telegraphy and telephony in Indian States.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; After the question of Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony in Indian States had been considered by the Standing Committee on no less than four occasions, *viz.*, in November 1922, September 1923, and January and August 1924, its Report was, as in the case of Radio-Broadcasting, presented to the Chamber during our last Session by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala in November 1924, to which general approval was accorded.

The question again came up, for the 5th time, before the Standing Committee Meeting in September last when the Committee dealt with certain amendments which were proposed in the light of the recommendations made by the Local Governments and States to whom the Summary had been circulated.

These amendments will be found in the 6th column of the Summary whilst the Committee's proposals will be found in the last, or the 7th column; and it will be observed that in Clause 4 (d) of the Summary it has been suggested that the power employed in a Wireless station in an Indian

State should be limited to that required adequately to provide the communications intended from time to time which was not included in the Committee's Report when last presented. But as a matter of fact this is not a new addition, for if Your Highnesses will refer to column IV containing the summary as revised by the Standing Committee at their meeting in January 1924, you will find this provision there as clause III (c). It was in the Revised Summary of August 1924, that the clause in question was omitted

In the memorandum explanatory on the subject furnished to the Standing Committee in September, 1925, the following reasons were given for the re-insertion of this clause:—

- (a) there is a risk that transmitting stations which are incorrectly designed, constructed or managed, and which are sufficiently powerful and so located that they can be heard in Indian waters may interfere with the Wireless signalling of ships of all nationalities and of commercial aircraft, and Government have obligations under International rules to guard against any such contingency, and
- (b) because Foreign Powers as well as the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and Post and Telegraph Department must be safeguarded against interference due to faulty design, construction, etc., of transmitters wherever situated. The Great Powers themselves are subject to such restrictions under the International Radio Convention Rules.

While speaking on the subject in November 1924 I had ventured to explain at some length how essential it was, with a view to maintain co-ordination and to avoid mutual interference, to consult the Government of India experts in regard to certain details such as the type of installation and power required, suitable wave lengths, etc. This argument applies with greater force to the point under discussion, *viz.*, that the power employed should be restricted to that required adequately to provide the communications intended from time to time, and accounts for the proposal to reinsert this clause.

As in the case of Radio Broadcasting the Committee has also clearly placed it on record that as the subject is a highly technical one, of which the Members had no special knowledge, any conclusions arrived at "must be recorded as liable to revision in the light of subsequent experience".

With these observations I present the Report of the Committee for Your Highnesses' general approval.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** I presume that Your Highnesses' Chamber will accept the report, as the indication of the several observations implies, of the Government of India as a whole, and amendments may become necessary as were made in your first Memorandum on Radio Broadcasting.

I take it, Your Highnesses, that is all the business of the Chamber to-day.

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The Chamber then adjourned till 11 A.M. the following day.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD DAY.

January 27th, 1926.

With the exception of Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Kapurthala and Nawanagar, and the Raja of Mudhol, the same Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present as on the first day.

### Agendum No. 6.

*Report of the Standing Committee regarding assessment of compensation for land required for railways in Indian States.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; Your Highnesses' general approval to the report of the Standing Committee relating to the assessment of compensation for land required for Railways in Indian States was accorded at the last session of the Chamber of Princes.

When the Committee met in Simla in September last, two amendments were laid before the Standing Committee for consideration as the outcome of the circulation of the previous Report of the Committee of August 1924 to Local Governments and States.

These amendments will be found in column III of the Summary as revised by the Committee in September last in clauses (i) and (iv). One of these amendments provides for the appointment of a Board of Arbitration consisting of one member appointed by the State, another by the Government of India or the Local Government and a third appointed by mutual consent, and lays down that their decision shall be final. This substitutes the previous proposal at the end of clause (1) of column II of the Summary where, in regard to difference of opinion occurring between the State concerned and the local Revenue authority as to the compensation payable on account of extinguished land revenue provision was only made for an arbiter being appointed by the Local Government concerned or by the Government of India as the case may be and his decision was to be final. This is distinctly an improvement in favour of the States and the Committee had no hesitation in agreeing to it.

We also substituted in this connection the words 'a third member' in place of the word 'umpire' in clause (iv).

The other amendment made by the Standing Committee which too related to clause (iv) was also found defective in another respect. The intention of course was that there should be as far as possible reciprocity between the States and British India. It was only in cases where private rights in land were to be acquired that the Land Acquisition Act was employed in British India. Where the property of the British Government was to be acquired for a State Railway the procedure was as described in clause (i) of column II. But clause (iv) in that column provided that in States it was only where compensation was to be paid to the State itself that the local Land Acquisition Act was to be followed and private rights in land were to be valued by the method prescribed for the valuation of Government rights in British India. It was therefore found necessary to alter clause (iv) and to substitute the following for the existing clause:—

“In cases in which it is proposed to acquire private rights in land in a State for Railway purposes, the proceedings, where the State concerned has enacted a Land Acquisition Act, will be under that Law, and the provisions of clause (ii) will apply *mutatis mutandis*. Where there is no Land Acquisition Act or where the State itself owns or has rights in the land which it is proposed to acquire; the estimates of the amount payable will be framed by the State authorities and forwarded to the Railway Administration concerned.”

As the matter had come up before the Standing Committee again I took the opportunity of making certain proposals for further improving the political practice in regard to this subject as I had had no final opportunities of bringing some of my own suggestions forward when the Committee met in August 1924 owing to my absence at the time in Europe in order to attend the League of Nations Assembly. I will not weary Your Highnesses with a long statement of the changes made in consequence by the Committee; but a comparison of columns II and III of the Summary will show a slight alteration in clause (i); also that clause (ii) has been recast; and that alteration has been made in clause (vii) whereby instead of the provision for the rates of royalty payable being determined in accordance with the rules in force in the State, subject to the maximum rates payable for similar materials in the nearest British District, the new provision as regards such procedure provides for recourse to arbitration in the manner provided in clause (iv) in cases where the Railway authorities consider that the rates under the State rules are unduly high. This last named point was also raised by His Highness of Alwar, at whose suggestion a new provision was also made which will be found in clause (iii).

In addition I need only mention that opportunity was taken by me of clearing up certain points. One such point related to a State's claim for compensation to their tenants, etc., which although provided for in clause (iii) of the original Summary was subsequently omitted in the Summary revised by the Standing Committee in August 1924.

On my enquiring as to the reason for this omission I was informed by the Political Secretary that the provision did not appear necessary inasmuch as the right of tenants to compensation was provided for in the Land Acquisition Act in British India and it was not likely that claims to compensation on account of such rights would be overlooked in awarding compensation in Indian States. The Political Secretary further pointed out that the right in question was also safeguarded by the provision in clause (iii) of the revised Summary and the insertion of this right only in connection with the acquisition of land in States suggested something less than reciprocity.

Another point about which I made enquiries was whether the general principle laid down for the award of compensation would apply to Jagir areas in the States and various conditions of land tenure, as also whether the working of this principle would be fully reciprocal. The Political Secretary has assured me that the object was to secure reciprocity; and that Jagirs were specially provided for in the Punjab Standing Order and that the same was presumably the case in other Provinces. The Political Secretary further assured me that in cases where the land belongs to a State, Jagir interests would be dealt with like other interests claimed in the land.

The Committee also agreed to another of my suggestions and recommended that the principles embodied in this revised Summary be made applicable also to the question of acquisition of lands for canal purposes which question we further noted should be separately taken up as soon as may be feasible.

I now move that the general approval of this Chamber be accorded to the Standing Committee's report.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** I take it that it meets with the general approval of Your Highnesses and is accepted.

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### Agendum No. 11.

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala regarding relief from double income-tax to subjects of Indian States.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** Your Excellency and Your Highnesses; As to the general desirability of providing a relief for those persons who are liable to the payment of double income-tax, there can be no possible question. The point has been considered and



dealt with by all the Governments of the Empire. But I desire to draw the attention of Your Excellency and Your Highnesses to the fact that the system at present in force in India, though admittedly a temporary expedient, is far less favourable to those States which levy income tax than the system countenanced by His Majesty's Government at Home. The British Board of Revenue has definitely set forth, in the event of levy of double income tax upon a given income by an Indian State and by the United Kingdom, the Indian States are to be regarded as falling within the definition of "Dominion" used in section 27 (8) (a) of the British Finance Act of 1920. According to this system an assessee who is liable to income tax both in Great Britain and an Indian State is entitled to a relief from British income tax at a rate equal to the Indian State rate, subject only to the limitation that the relief shall not exceed half the appropriate rate of the British tax. It seems to have been realised by the British Treasury that, in these circumstances, the cost of the rebate ought to be borne by the British Exchequer.

When we turn, however, to the present interim arrangements put forward by the Government of India for the relief of assesseees liable to income tax both in Indian States and British India, we encounter a wholly different state of affairs. It is true that the total relief to be given is assessed at the lower of the two rates of taxes imposed. But it is further laid down that the cost of this relief is to be divided between the Government of India and the Indian State concerned; that is each of these parties is expected to give a rebate of half the lower rate.

Now, I submit to Your Excellency and Your Highnesses that this arrangement is quite inequitable. For the present, at any rate, it may obviously be assumed that the lower rate of income tax will invariably be that levied by the Indian State. This being so, the State is penalised for treating its subjects more liberally than does the Indian Government; since the State has to sacrifice 50 per cent. of its tax; while the Government of India only sacrifice a much smaller fraction of their own total share. There remains the further consideration that the Indian States can very ill afford the sacrifice imposed upon them by the necessity of their defraying half the cost of the total relief given to their own subjects. It is, I assert, much more equitable that the Government of India should follow the plan adopted by His Majesty's Government and themselves bear the cost of the relief due to assesseees whose income is subject to double tax.

I understand that the existing arrangement is temporary. I have endeavoured in these few remarks to demonstrate that it is inequitable from the standpoint of the States. I therefore earnestly hope that Your Excellency and your Government will see your way to revising at a very early date this system, against which I lodge my complaint.

With these few words, I beg to move the following resolution:—

“Resolved that this Chamber do recommend to His Excellency the Viceroy that, in view of the extreme desirability of providing relief to the assessee from payment of double income tax on income taxed both in British India and in Indian States, the Indian States may receive treatment at least similar to what is vouchsafed for Dominions, as defined in section 27 (8) (a) of the British Act of 1920.”

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** I ask Mr. McWatters to explain the position on behalf of my Government.

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. C. McWatters:** Your Excellency; I have to thank Your Excellency for the permission given to me to appear in this Chamber to-day. The object of my asking for this permission was to give an assurance on behalf of Government, which I hope, will be found satisfactory to His Highness who moved this Resolution and to Your Highnesses generally. In view of the assurance which I am about to give I do not think it is necessary for me to-day to go into great details as to the difficulties which the Government of India find in adopting automatically the arrangements which have been brought into force between the British Government and the Dominion Governments

and British India. As His Highness has pointed out, the arrangement is a liberal one on the part of the British Government which has accepted the position of the Country of Primary Relief, that is to say, any one who is doubly taxed applies first of all to the British Government and that Government gives relief up to half the rate of the British tax subject to the amount given being not in excess of the lower of the two rates of income-tax concerned. The result is that so long as the British Government tax is very much higher than that of a Dominion or British India, the bulk of the relief is given by the British Government. I think it is however important to point out that there are some special circumstances which possibly influenced the British Government in giving these very favourable terms. The important point is that the scope of the British tax is entirely different from that in British India or in any of the Dominions. Under the British tax, income is taxed whether it is brought into England or not, that is to say, an assessee in England is charged income-tax on income earned not only in England but on income earned throughout the Empire whether that income is brought into the United Kingdom or not. In India and in the Dominions the position is different. The income-tax is only charged if the income is brought into British India or the Dominions and therefore the scope of the income-tax in the United Kingdom is very much wider than that in British India. In order to arrive at an arrangement throughout the Empire which would relieve trade and industry from burden of double income-tax, the United Kingdom possibly found it desirable to give what appear *prima facie* to be very generous terms. The second difficulty with which the Government of India are confronted is that our Income-tax Department is a very rapidly developing and somewhat young Department and that our statistical information is more or less in its infancy. And therefore the exact financial effect of any scheme which is to be brought into being is very difficult to judge. This temporary scheme which is suggested, has the merits of giving adequate relief to the tax-payer, that is up to the full amount of the lower rate, and of being simple in working. This latter point is important because there are no less than 28 States which levy income-tax and their rates are in many cases different and the limit of free income is also different. So therefore a simple scheme is essential and as a temporary measure the Government of India entered into negotiations with the States which contemplated that relief should be given equally by the States and by the British Government. The assurance which I shall give to-day is that this arrangement should be regarded purely as a temporary measure for a period of five years. During that period we propose to instruct the Commissioners of Income-tax to collect statistics State by State, which will show clearly the financial effect of this or any other competing arrangement, which may come up for consideration after the end of these five years and on the distinct understanding that this is a temporary arrangement for five years. I hope the assurance will be found satisfactory.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** May I know, with Your Excellency's permission, what are the special circumstances regarding the arrangements between the British Government and the Dominions for the income-tax?

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** Mr McWatters; are you prepared to answer this?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. C. McWatters:** The special circumstances were the difference in the scope of the English tax from that of the Dominions and British India, the English tax having a very much wider scope and being levied on income whether it is brought into England or not. I take the case of a company which has earned a hundred thousand pounds in Calcutta and ten thousand pounds in England. That company is charged income-tax in England on a hundred and ten thousand pounds; that is, the full profits, whether brought into England or not, are subject to British tax. Therefore in giving relief from double taxation, it is perhaps not unnatural



that the British Government should accept a greater liability than India because in the converse case the income earned in England would not be subject to tax out here unless it was brought into British India.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** The question is whether Your Highness is moving the Resolution or whether you are satisfied with the undertaking given or whether you propose to move the motion.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** With Your Excellency's permission I like to proceed with the Resolution. The motion is for Your Excellency's decision. I like to proceed with it.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** Then it must be understood that there is no undertaking. Let me explain that what the Government propose is an undertaking which in their view would meet the present situation. I rather understood that Your Highness' point was to seek to ascertain what could be done and what we propose. A statement has been made on behalf of my Government and this undertaking is merely for the purpose of showing that it is purely temporary.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** I must mention that this is a temporary arrangement. But this is a matter which affects us very vitally and with Your Excellency's permission I like to move the Resolution.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** Then I take it that the undertaking is not accepted as satisfactory. And we might proceed on the understanding that the undertaking has not been accepted.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; I think what His Highness has probably at the bottom of his mind is that he wants to proceed with the Resolution and that His Highness and all of us are nevertheless grateful for the assurance and the very sympathetic reply made by Mr. McWatters and that we are not pressing the Government of India. I think what His Highness means is that this question should be considered by Your Excellency's Government on the basis of his resolution and the assurance given by the Government of India, and if I may raise one more point, Sir, I would ask whether it would not be possible to consider this question in a period shorter than 5 years. 5 years is rather a long time for this investigation and while we are grateful for the assurance that this arrangement is only a temporary one and also for the assurance that this will be reconsidered; 5 years is rather a long time; and if it could be possible to expedite the enquiry, possibly His Highness would be prepared to consider not to press this Resolution. It is only for consideration and to see things as they are and there is nothing further to be raised in this House. The position is very clear and it is simply a question of affording relief to the subjects of Indian States from double income-tax and there is no difference of opinion between the Princes and Your Excellency.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** There is no difficulty as far as I understand in moving the motion to be considered. As I followed Mr. McWatters, the Government of India are not in a position to decide and I do not think they would be in a position to do so until they are able to collect the information which is very necessary in order to determine what the effect would be. The effect of proposals must be known before it could be decided how relief is to be given and what the relief should be. What I suggest is that the matter should rest where it is, as in the statement made by Mr. McWatters on behalf of my Government. Of course, Government will take into consideration that the motion was proposed and that the matter was left there.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** May I propose, Sir, if it is acceptable to Your Excellency, that the matter be handed over to the Standing Committee for further discussion with the Government of India and then I shall withdraw my Resolution.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** Certainly.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Then we had better leave the matter at this stage.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** I will then withdraw, with Your Excellency's permission. I won't move the resolution this session. I will postpore the motion.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** Then I think that, in view of the statement made by Mr McWatters during the course of the discussion, His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala withdraws his Resolution for this Session. I am certain that it will be considered by my Government.

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### Agendum No. 7.

*Report of the Standing Committee regarding the amendment of the First Regulations so as to exclude Jamnia and Nimkhera from the list of Lesser States in Central India entitled to vote for a Representative Member in the Chamber of Princes.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; When presenting, at our last session, the Report of the Standing Committee regarding the exclusion of Panth Piploda from the list of Lesser Chiefs of Central India entitled to vote for a Representative Member in this Chamber, it will be recollected that I also referred to the Committee having in September 1923 dealt at the same time with the question of the similar exclusion of Jamnia and Nimkhera.

This was in consequence of my having been approached as Chancellor by His Highness the Maharaja of Dhar on the subject, and at the Committee I expressed the opinion that from the facts before us Jamnia and Nimkhera were not entitled to representation in the Chamber; and the Committee, agreeing with this view, recorded the opinion that Jamnia and Nimkhera should consequently be excluded.

Further facts relating to this case were placed before the Committee in February 1925 with the result that we had no hesitation in confirming our previous recommendation about the exclusion of Jamnia and Nimkhera.

It will be observed that in Rule 1 of the Rules for the election of a Representative Member by the Lesser Chiefs in Central India, the qualification laid down for a Lesser Chief to vote at an election is that he should be ruling over his own State.

Since the real position of these Bhumias in regard to appreciable portions of their holdings is that of complete subordination to a State to whose superior jurisdiction they are amenable in all matters of internal administration, and, as their original inclusion was due apparently to a mistake in the recommendation of the Local Administration, there does not appear to be any doubt as regards the necessity, or the equity, of their exclusion, regarding which I would now ask Your Highnesses to express your concurrence.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** May I assume that Your Highnesses concur with the proposal of the Maharaja of Bikaner?

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### Agendum No. 10.

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner regarding the amendment of Rules 3 and 4 of the Rules for the conduct of business in the Chamber so as to make it permissible for subjects to be included in, and circulation of, Agenda, respectively two months and six weeks before the meeting of the Chamber.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses, Rule 3 of the Rules for the Conduct of Business provides for three months' notice before the date fixed for the meeting of the Chamber of Princes in regard to any subject proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the Chamber.

In contrast with this rule, in the case of the Imperial Legislatures, only 15 days' notice is deemed sufficient for moving a Resolution.

Rule 4 lays down that a copy of the Agenda will be furnished to every Member and Representative Member, if possible, two months before the meeting.

It is now proposed to reduce the period of notice from three to two months and of circulation of the Agenda to Princes from two months to six weeks.

Should this amendment, as is hoped, meet with Your Highnesses' approval and receive the sanction of His Excellency the Viceroy, it will, we hope be instrumental in increasing the interest and importance of the work of the Chamber by the discussion of more subjects than is possible under the existing rules, as it is not unusual that resolutions on important subjects which suggest themselves after the period of notice is over, are not sent in because of the necessity of having to trouble His Excellency for special permission to their inclusion in the Agenda.

I, therefore, move:—

“ That the Chamber of Princes do recommend to His Excellency the Viceroy that Rules 3 and 4 of the Rules for the conduct of business in the Chamber be so amended as to make it permissible for subjects to be included in, and for the circulation of, the Agenda of the Chamber respectively two months and six weeks before the meeting of the Chamber. ”

**The Chief of Sangli:** I beg to second the resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** I take it that Your Highnesses approve of the Resolution to amend the Rules, and I may say at once that it is unnecessary to defer consideration, and on behalf of the Government I am prepared to accept the amendment which has been moved.

I think that ends the business of the day.

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The Chamber then adjourned till 11 A.M. the following day.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH DAY.

*January 28th, 1926.*

With the exception of His Highness the Maharaja of Nawanagar, the same Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present as on the first day.

### Agendum No. 8.

*Report of the Standing Committee regarding the amendment of Regulation 8 of the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members in the Chamber of Princes.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; I beg to present the report of the Standing Committee regarding amendment of Regulation 8 of the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members in the Chamber of Princes. The proposal emanated from the Pant Sachiv of Bhore on the ground that under the existing Regulations elections of Representative Members in the case of most constituencies fall due towards the end of October or early in November, *i.e.*, only a few days before the usual dates fixed for the annual Session of the Chamber of Princes. The newly elected Members are thus at a disadvantage in the matter of preparation for discussion of the various subjects in the Chamber as also in regard to their coming to Delhi to attend our Session.

To obviate this inconvenience the Foreign and Political Department at the instance of the Standing Committee has suggested the amendment of the existing regulation 8 which will now read as under and to which Your Highnesses' general approval may, I would ask, be accorded:—

“Representative Members elected under these regulations will continue to serve until the conclusion of the third annual meeting of the Chamber of Princes after their election and will be eligible for re-election at the end of the period.”

**Pant Sachiv of Bhore:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; I rise to give my humble support to the report of the Standing Committee, just now presented to the Chamber for approval, by our popular Chancellor His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, with his usual tact. The report relates to the appointment of Representative Members of this Chamber and tries to effect a slight amendment in the first Resolution, in order to obviate an apparent inconvenience as already explained. The proposal having emanated from me I hope Your Highnesses will permit me to briefly explain as to how I felt the difficulty about it in the past.

I believe Your Highnesses are aware that I am a Representative Member of the Central States in the Bombay Presidency since June 1923. An invitation was issued to me as such in July 1924 to attend the Session of the Chamber to be held in November 1924. In September 1924 I was called upon to send the usual statement giving details of the Officers, relatives and servants, etc., who would accompany me. So I was seriously preparing to attend the Session and making arrangements for my stay at Delhi and for the performance of the routine work of my State in my absence when on the 4th of October 1924 I received a communication from the Commissioner, C. D., that the period of my office as a Representative Member expired in the month of October and that the 15th and 25th October were declared by Government to be appointed and polling dates respectively for fresh election. Your Highnesses will easily perceive what I might have felt at the time. It is needless for me to remind Your Highnesses that the last Session was to be held on the 17th of November 1924 that is 22 days after the above polling date. Naturally a few days pass away before the

notification announcing the election is gazetted and intimated to the elected Representative. It is therefore unnecessary for me to dilate upon the inconvenience and suspense that might be caused to a Member like myself under these circumstances on account of the uncertainty of his being elected again as there can be no two opinions that a fortnight or so is quite insufficient for Representative Members and more especially for those who are newly elected and who stay at a long distance from Delhi, to be in readiness for the work of the Chamber. The elections in the Punjab and Bihar were I learn held in November 1924 and I think my brothers representing the States in those Provinces—I mean the Rana of Bhagat and the Raja of Sonpur—must have experienced the difficulties of the present procedure in a still greater measure as the time of their election was actually in the same month in the middle of which the Session of the Chamber itself was to be held. It will be seen that we are not taking undue advantage of our electors as the proposed amendment does not in the least extend the period of the tenure of the present Representative Members since the proposed amendment is calculated to be applicable to future elections only.

In the memorandum explanatory of this agendum it has been vaguely stated that the proposed amendment will allow plenty of time to the local authorities for necessary action in the matter of electing new Representative Members in good time before the next annual meeting takes place. However I may be permitted to express a hope that in practice His Excellency the Viceroy will be pleased to see that all the elections would take place simultaneously, as far as possible, and also soon after the conclusion of the third Session, so as to leave plenty of time also to the Representative Members who would be newly elected to thoroughly prepare themselves for the discussion at the ensuing Session. I can tell from my personal experience that the new Representative Member would find it rather difficult for some time in the beginning to prepare himself for performing his duties properly or to follow the proceedings of the Chamber in the absence of the study of the necessary materials. For this reason and in order to enable new Representative Members to take a more active interest in the proceedings of the Chamber as earnestly desired by His Excellency the Viceroy, I feel the necessity of sufficient time intervening between the elections of Representative Members and the annual Session and I trust that such provision will be made in holding future elections.

I further take this opportunity of thanking His Highness the Chancellor as well as the Honourable Mr. Thompson, the Political Secretary, and the Members of the Standing Committee on behalf of the Representative Members for readily sympathising with this my proposal and accepting it for inclusion in the Agenda at their meeting in September last.

Lastly, I hope that all the Members of the Chamber will lend their hearty support to the report placed before the House with a greater conviction about its necessity in consideration of the difficulties I have ventured to point out with your indulgence.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** I take it that Your Highnesses' Chamber approves of the Report and accords its approval.

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### Agendum No. 12.

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar regarding the provision of funds for the office of the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes and other incidental expenditure.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; The following Resolution is down in the paper to be moved in my name "that as no suitable provision exists for maintaining the office and staff of the Chancellor to the Narendra Mandal and for other incidental expenses, and as it is necessary in the interests of the work of the Mandal that due provision should be made forthwith, the Narendra Mandal resolves (a) that all Members of the Mandal should subscribe Rs. 800 individually

and annually for three years and (b) that in the case of Representative Members the amount should be made up by contributions from the States represented by each. The scale of contribution by Members and Representative Members should be open to re-consideration at the end of three years in the light of experience then acquired”.

This, Your Highnesses, is the Resolution now before Your Highnesses for your consideration. I am conscious of the fact that it is not one which is likely to receive your universal or unanimous approval, and in moving this Resolution on the present occasion I am reminded of a verse which, slightly modified and altered, suits my purpose:—

Ah! my friends, could we but with fate conspire  
To grasp this sorry scheme of things entire,  
Would we then not shatter it to bits  
And remould it nearer to the heart's desire.

My only heart's desire in moving this Resolution is to place before Your Highnesses our present necessity, and, if I can succeed, of raising a debate and having the pleasure of seeing Your Highnesses take an active part in it. It will be so much the better, for certainly my Resolution can claim the privilege that it is not going to be passed in that pathetic manner in which Your Highnesses have been good enough to accept some of the reports made by our Standing Committee. Upon important and solemn occasions it is always appropriate to make set speeches; and in the embryonic stage of our Chamber it is sometimes incumbent upon us. But unless we discuss questions freely, openly and candidly in the Chamber, which is really an assemblage for discussing topics, one of the purposes for which it exists, namely, of educating those who do not feel inclined to speak will not be fulfilled. Speaking is just as much a virtue as it is sometimes a dangerous practice. But with the solemn and sober dignity of Your Highnesses' House and the courtesy that you extend invariably to the Members, who either propose Resolutions or move them, I do not think there is any fear of our encroaching beyond the boundary line. I have received numerous advices in connection with the Resolution which I move to-day. The simplest one of them all was from Bombay, but I hope that, in the course of the discussion, many valuable opinions will be forthcoming from Your Highnesses. There is, for instance, His Highness the Maharaja of Rewa who has not given us the benefit of his opinion individually on any subject. And then perhaps His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur will, let us hope, enlighten us with his views to-day. There is His Highness of Sikkim. There is His Highness of Mandi. All know English and I feel sure if they only come forward to give expression to their views, we should be very agreeably surprised not only with their orations but also with valuable views which Their Highnesses would give us. Another reason that I know is in the mind of some of Your Highnesses is that this subject relates to questions which ought to be decided in our informal gatherings and that it should not be brought up in a formal debate for decision. I think the lingering danger that might have been possibly before Your Highnesses is that somebody might take advantage of such a precedent and move a subscription list in our Chamber on future occasions. For instance, there is the important question of 500 Rs. for decorating the new Chamber with a Coat of Arms. There is a horse show which is to take place a few days hence, and perhaps some Members are interested in horses and might like to move a resolution to assist that cause. But I don't think that my Resolution falls in that category, for it is one essentially concerned with the Chamber, which has a Chancellor. But our Chancellor at present has no Secretariat Office and it is for this reason my Resolution tries to formulate before Your Highnesses certain proposals, in order that you may have an opportunity of giving your opinion on the subject. This Resolution, when I moved it, or rather when I proposed and suggested it to be moved in the Chamber, came up before the Standing Committee at Simla, and after vetting was allowed to pass. Since then circumstances have considerably changed. In the first place half the object of the Resolution, I am



glad and I feel sure Your Highnesses will be glad also, has already been achieved for it has roused the Chancellor to action. It has roused Your Highnesses to action. I do not mean to contend by this that His Highness the Chancellor or Your Highnesses sat idle during the past few years. But, as you know, this question has been before our Standing Committee and before our informal gatherings for a number of years. It has received our pious assent but no more. It has only served a proof of the agility with which Your Highnesses rise to the occasion when the real need and the demand comes. For before my Resolution has had any chance of coming before Your Highnesses for discussion, a sum well over a lakh has already been generously subscribed by Your Highnesses; out of this you have also in your generous mode decided that, in order to pay the expenses of His Highness the Chancellor, who for our purposes carried on this onerous duty for five years, he should be presented with a souvenir of Rs. 70,000. We were glad to find this opportunity of showing our appreciation in this manner for the excellent work which His Highness has done for our Order in that important post. His Highness has been gracious enough to remit to us out of the whole amount I believe Rs. 49. But at the same time we have retaliated by leaving out His Highness' own subscription of Rs. 3,000 which was included in the seventy. Another question that comes up here in connection with this Resolution, as Your Highnesses will notice, is that it comes in two parts, one relating to the Princes who come here in their own right, and the second relating to the Representative Members. With regard to the second question, I have heard it stated that, as they have not had opportunities of consulting their constituencies on the subject, they are loath to express their opinion and to give us a definite decision. There are many subjects that may come up before the Chamber in which perhaps a Resolution may be moved by a Prince, and later amendments might be suggested. These Chiefs vote on those subjects but naturally their constituencies do not know of the amendments or of the changes. But I believe that the idea of sending a Representative from any body or organisation is not that he must be authorised on every single word that he utters. The idea is that he should represent the main cause and then he is trusted to fulfil the responsibility with regard to the rest. I hope that the Representative Members of the Chamber who are present here will therefore take the responsibility upon themselves of giving us the benefit of their opinions and of their views. There may be secret and confidential reasons which it is not for me to discuss. But whatever that may be, when we wipe some at least of the cobwebs that might surround this Resolution away, it is really a simple matter in itself. It merely asks Your Highnesses to give your verdict with regard to an Office which is required for the essential post of the Chancellor of your Chamber. Although my original Resolution put down the figure at one thousand rupees, I have, after experience with Your Highnesses in our informal discussion, come to the conclusion that 800 rupees will suffice for the Members who come here in their own right.

With regard to the second question of the Representative Members, it is entirely open to Your Highnesses, and I should be very glad to consider what amendments you may have to propose to my Resolution.

For instance, they may suggest or they may like that, instead of Rs. 800 being fixed per Representative Member, and the expenses being distributed equally over the constituencies, they might individually subscribe Rs. 100 each. These are matters in which I should be glad to receive your suggestion, and you may rest assured that I shall not feel hurt if you propose amendments to the resolution. In fact I should welcome any suggestions that you may have to make, my whole object being to find the means and the method whereby the office of the Chancellor may be placed on a permanent footing so far as its running expenses are concerned. One of the main objects in my suggesting this resolution which, as I said, was proposed some few months ago, has already been fulfilled due to the collection of finances. A good part of the bottom of the case in which I enclosed my resolution has already dropped out owing to the fact that at least for the next year Your Highnesses

have already got sufficient funds to carry on the work of the office of the Chancellor. So really my resolution only leads Your Highnesses one stage further, and proposes that this sum may be fixed for three years. As a matter of fact there is some safety in it also; Your Highnesses and the Representative Members may now feel safe that the figure fixed will not rise in proportion to necessities; for I am fully aware of the fact that, in moving a Resolution of this nature just one stage earlier than the election of the Chancellor, there will be opinions expressed which will not be entirely in harmony with my own. People might say that this might prejudice my case for standing for the next Chancellorship. I am very conscious of the fact and I was conscious when I suggested it. But to me, holding the office of the Chancellor and sacrificing a question of principle are less important than proposing before Your Highnesses for consideration a question which, when settled, will prevent, I hope, the next Chancellor, whoever it be, whoever Your Highnesses are pleased to select and elect, from writing round letters begging. Therefore Your Highnesses will realise that half of the success of my Resolution has already been achieved, due to the fact that funds have been collected for at least one year. A quarter of the success of my original Resolution will have been achieved if it helps in raising a debate, and in encouraging a few of Your Highnesses to stand up on your hind legs and to give us the benefit of your opinions, especially the members to whom I have referred. With regard to the remaining part, of success of my Resolution, I shall keep something up my sleeve, and therefore I shall now propose that the Resolution be placed before Your Highnesses for discussion and consideration. But in doing so I should ill discharge my responsibility if I did not take this opportunity to say that in moving it I hope it will be thoroughly realised that I in no way cast aspersions on our respected and useful Chancellor who is not standing this year. On the contrary, I should like to express my heartfelt gratitude, as I feel you all feel, for the indefatigable work he has done in this office for five years. We are thankful to him and this is a very poor tribute. For, to express a tribute in words only is something that is not sufficient for the work that His Highness has done for us, the battles that he has fought for us, and really for the care, attention and diligence that he has devoted to our cause. Now, Your Highnesses, I ask that the Resolution be discussed by Your Highnesses. I fully expect and I also hope that it will not be passed tamely by receiving your unanimous approval without raising a debate.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** I beg to support the Resolution.

**Nawab of Loharu:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; May I respectfully say, with Your Excellency's permission, that it seems to me that to bring forward this resolution at present is inconsistent with the procedure of this Chamber. Although in his eloquent speech my friend, His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar, has told us something about the necessity there was for having an office establishment for the Chancellor. I think there is nothing on record in this Chamber which can be taken as conferring sanction for the establishment of such an office. As regards anything decided by us informally, I do not think we can take those decisions as the decisions of this Chamber. Without hearing a word about such an office in this Chamber we are suddenly asked to find ourselves voting a fixed contribution for three years for its maintenance. That is my objection to the Resolution moved by His Highness of Alwar.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar:** Without a word about this Resolution.

**Nawab of Loharu:** Yes. About the office establishment of the Chancellor.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** I see no difficulty of any constitutional question arising. It is a matter entirely for Your Highnesses to decide according to your views. What I appreciate is that the Nawab of Loharu seems to require further information.



**Nawab of Loharu:** What I require is a resolution to be moved first for the establishment of an office for the Chancellor. Then the question of funds arises. We have not yet decided about the office establishment.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** That is for Your Highnesses to determine according to your own views. It is open to Your Highnesses to ask for further information, and it is open to Your Highnesses to move an amendment, particularly in view of the fact that the Resolution has only recently come on the agenda, for the purpose of either requiring further information or for deferring the discussion.

There is nothing in the constitution as laid down by this Chamber which would prohibit in any way discussion of a matter which affects all Your Highnesses who are members of the Chamber and in relation to your membership of the Chamber. It is clearly open to any one of Your Highnesses to propose a resolution and for your Chamber to give effect to it. In a sense that has nothing whatever to do with the Government. Government takes no part either in one form or the other. As I understand the Government has no relation whatever to the question. It is simply put as a matter on which Your Highnesses are asked to agree to certain terms which His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar has explained. It rests for Your Highnesses to determine.

**Nawab of Loharu:** Thanking Your Excellency for what has just been explained, it is understood that it is for the Chamber to do this sort of thing. In that case I would only propose the following amendment:

“ That the question should be given to the Standing Committee for further consideration and then their report should be placed before the Chamber for their consideration next year.”

**His Highness the Raja of Sitamau:** I support the Nawab Sahib of Loharu.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** As I understand the amendment which the Nawab of Loharu proposed is that the matter should be referred to the Standing Committee for their consideration and for report to this Chamber. That amendment is before the Chamber.

As I gather from the silence that none of Your Highnesses wish to express an opinion upon the amendment, I must put the amendment first and ask Your Highnesses to vote upon it if there is a division of opinion. The proposal therefore now is that the matter should be referred to the Standing Committee for their consideration and for report to this Chamber. If none of Your Highnesses desire to speak I will take a vote upon it. Will Your Highnesses therefore signify your views upon this matter.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** The result of the vote is 9 for the amendment and 14 against. The amendment is therefore lost.

The resolution now is for Your Highnesses' consideration and, as apparently no one desires to express a further opinion upon it, a vote is now to be taken upon the resolution.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** 15 have voted in favour of the resolution and 8 against. Therefore the resolution is passed.

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### Agendum No. 14.

#### *Election of the Chancellor.*

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; Before the election of the Chancellor for the ensuing year takes place, I would beg to be permitted to make a personal statement. I hope it is not necessary for me to state what a high honour I feel it to have been elected each year by Your Highnesses as the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes ever since the inauguration of the Chamber in 1921, and how

extremely proud I feel at having been during all this period the recipient of this signal mark of Your Highnesses' trust and confidence. Heavy though it is, this work, through good health and illness, has to me been a labour of love; and I have found my reward in Your Highnesses' generous appreciation and in the knowledge that by my work I am not only serving my Order but also the Empire and our Emperor.

If I could have consulted my own personal predilections, I would long before this have begged Your Highnesses to excuse me from standing again for the Chancellorship; and I only stood specially in the last two years, much against my own will at the express wishes of so many of Your Highnesses and with the desire as far as in me lay of helping to consolidate the work of the Chamber and with the object of enabling the Chamber of Princes to get well started.

Your Highnesses will recollect that last year I appealed to you to relieve me of this work as soon as possible; and I referred to the very great strain imposed upon me by carrying on this responsible and, by no means, light task.

As is known to many present here, I suffered from a rather severe illness in 1921, and it was only my attachment to this Chamber and to Your Highnesses that persuaded me to undertake the duties of the Chancellor for so long afterwards as my health has not yet been fully restored.

I trust that I shall not be considered immodest when I point out that even before the Chamber was inaugurated I carried on similar heavy work as Honorary Secretary to Your Highnesses for the Princes' Conference. Ten years of this kind of work is, I am sure it will be realised, as much as any one can properly undertake; and I am beginning to notice signs of getting rather stale at it. Such work also makes a heavy inroad on my time and has interfered to a not inappreciable extent with the proper work of my own State; and fresh blood and fresh ideas are by no means a disadvantage.

It is for all these reasons that I have determined, as I have already announced, not to stand again this year for the Chancellorship. And now on relinquishing this office I beg to be permitted to tender to Your Excellency my most grateful thanks for all the very kind and generous remarks which you have been pleased to make as regards what little services I may have been able to render; and I also beg to tender to Your Highnesses an expression of my deep indebtedness for similar generous appreciation expressed from time to time and for the sympathetic support and encouragement which I have received from Your Excellency and Your Highnesses for which I can never be too grateful.

I would also like to express my profound gratitude for the very handsome souvenir which Your Highnesses decided the other day to present to me to mark my services in the last ten years. It is indeed a princely gift in princely appreciation of my humble services; I have repeatedly requested Your Highnesses in this connection that a souvenir of a sum of far less value than Rs 75,000 would be equally and gratefully appreciated by me; but, as in the case of your support and courtesy to me, you have stuck to your decision with the same generous determination and insistence, and I can only assure Your Highnesses that not only I, but my family successors, will value this souvenir as a most treasured heir-loom.

I am confident that all of Your Highnesses will extend the same friendship, the same support and the same encouragement to the new Chancellor whom you may now elect, as has hitherto been extended to me.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala :** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; I feel I cannot let slip this opportunity of paying my tribute of affection and respect to my dearest brother His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner. In his high office as Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes he has worked hard and self-sacrificingly for the good of our Order. He

has set a high example for those who come after him: and we feel that we cannot but seize the moment when he lays down the office he has filled so long and so ably to record a very hearty vote of thanks to him for his labour. This vote, accordingly, I have the honour to propose.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses, It gives me genuine pleasure to second the motion of His Highness of Patiala. Within the few days that we have been here this year we have listened to two pronouncements on the services of His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner to the Princes and their Chamber. His Highness of Patiala in his able speech now, and His Excellency the Viceroy in his eloquent speech the other day, paid high tribute to His Highness the Chancellor. They expressed the sentiments of those who have been in close association with His Highness of Bikaner and his activities for some years. I have not had that privilege, but even as an outside observer as I was, I feel sure there is no one who has not had ample evidence of the meritorious services rendered by His Highness of Bikaner, not only to his Order, but to India and to the British Empire. During the last decade, when the world has passed through a crisis of no small magnitude we may well consider ourselves fortunate in having obtained the services of so able and distinguished a statesman as the Maharaja of Bikaner who has not only contributed largely to the consolidation of our position within the Indian Empire, but also in the British Empire and in the Assemblies of the entire civilized world.

I have only recently entered Your Highnesses' Order. This is my first set speech and I am happy that it should have been framed to give expression to our appreciation of our distinguished Chancellor. That I should commence my activities in the Chamber, by contributing my own quota of admiration for His Highness of Bikaner, is to me a matter of great gratification.

In conclusion, Your Highness, let me add that if this Chamber ultimately fulfils the useful purpose for which it was brought into being, it will in years to come boast of the services of several able and distinguished Chancellors, who will leave their mark on the edifice by adding to and beautifying the general structure, the corner-stone of which has been so ably and firmly laid by Your Highness.

Whatever influence future Chancellors may wield, Your Highness will go down in the history of the Chamber as its first great Chancellor, supplying to those who succeed Your Highness, a noble example of unselfish and valuable service rendered, which it shall be their aim and ambition to emulate.

With these few words I beg to second most cordially and warmly the Resolution of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses: On this occasion when the Chancellorship of this Chamber changes hands I feel that as a Member I cannot refrain from paying His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner a cordial tribute of grateful appreciation of the consummate skill and ability, the strenuous application and devotion His Highness has brought to bear on the discharge of his onerous and most delicate task as the first Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes. His Highness has been the moving spirit of the Chamber ever since its creation and it is, I think, only fair to recognise the fact that it was due largely to his stimulus that a large majority of the Ruling Princes of India awoke to the need of an organic medium of expression of the standpoint of Indian States on subjects affecting the Indian States generally and the latter and British India in common. The Chamber of Princes was a logical development of the informal Conferences which first came into being in Lord Hardinge's time and were regularly convened by Your Excellency's distinguished predecessor. At those Conferences also His Highness took a

leading part. In all the various activities connected with the corporate welfare of our Order His Highness has figured prominently. Therefore, we owe His Highness a deep debt of gratitude for his labours in our cause and I venture to urge Your Highnesses to perpetuate the memory of His Highness' brilliant regime as Chancellor in a suitable form. Perhaps a life-size painting of His Highness subscribed to by Your Highnesses and hung on the walls of the hall of the Chamber of Princes in Raisina would be an appropriate permanent memorial.

**The Chief of Sangli:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; It is my pleasant duty to support the hearty vote of thanks so ably moved and seconded by Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Patiala and Kashmir, to His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner for his distinguished work as Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes. You are already aware how splendidly His Highness has performed the responsible duties of his position as Chancellor and how zealously and sincerely he put forth his earnest efforts to promote the interests of the Chamber. It is not a mere eulogy but a fact that His Highness not only watched our rights and interests but guided us to a right path like a skilful and experienced mariner who steers his ship most cautiously in difficult waters. One can easily imagine how much personal sacrifice he had to make of his precious time and money in doing the work in our common interests. It will be admitted on all hands that the noble qualities of head and heart with which His Highness is abundantly endowed have added in no small degree to the dignity, prestige and weight of the Chamber. Your Highnesses have already testified the high esteem and regard in which you hold His Highness for his outstanding ability, attainments and statesmanship by repeatedly electing him to the exalted position of the Chancellorship and it has been a source of deep regret to us that His Highness does not once more stand for election. We are indeed under a deep debt of gratitude to His Highness for the valuable work he has done in furthering the interests and advancing the position of our Chamber and we owe our warmest thanks to him for the great zeal and public spirit with which he has discharged the onerous duties of the high office of Chancellor. With these words I heartily join in the Resolution about a cordial vote of thanks to His Highness.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; His Highness the Chancellor, with his usual modesty, did not inform me that this Resolution was coming up to-day, and, therefore, I am afraid I preceded my remarks before those of His Highness of Patiala so nicely moved in relation to the services of our Chancellor. But if I may add something, a very few words to what I have already said, I should like to say that in the first place I have to thank His Highness for having spontaneously and of his own free will agreed to the suggestion which fell from my lips last year in supporting His Highness for his election and accordingly His Highness has been good enough after carrying the mantle so nobly and so well to have allowed it to go on other shoulders. As far as His Highness' work is concerned I have already stated in very inadequate words my feelings. We are giving expression to those feelings through the souvenir; but the souvenir itself will be really inadequate. For the expression of gratitude and thankfulness that we have in our hearts is the best casket that we can possibly present to His Highness for his splendid work. His Highness has well deserved of us of the work that he has done in the interests of our Order. He has steered our boat clear through the Scylla of the Imperial Government and the Charybdis of the Princes, for he has in serving our interests also been able to earn the sympathy and retained the friendship of the Imperial Government, the Viceroy and his Government. It is no easy task to perform as I believe the new Chancellor, whoever he may be, will have on his shoulders to do and we are thankful to His Highness not only for having served the interests of our Order but having done it in a manner which has run so smoothly on all sides. And it is therefore only natural that I very cordially and warmly supply His Highness of Patiala's Resolution moved in this Chamber and so ably and cordially supported by the other Princes.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** Your Highnesses; After the eloquent tributes that have been paid to the services of His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner and after the observations that I have already had the opportunity of making before it is unnecessary that I should express again my own views and those of my Government. All I desire to say is that it would be difficult indeed for the successor or the successors of His Highness of Bikaner to emulate the completeness and the efficiency with which he has discharged the very onerous duties of the Chancellor and, whatever success the Chamber of Princes may have had or may have in the future, will be, as some of Your Highnesses have so justly said, in a large measure due to the services of His Highness of Bikaner. He has borne the brunt of all the preliminary work regarding the construction of the Chamber and its constitution. As I have had exceptional opportunities of observing the conduct of the work of the Chamber in association with the Political Department and myself, I associate myself most cordially with all that Your Highnesses have said and in this particular case I need not submit the Resolution to a vote of this House.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; It is not a mere figure of speech when I say that I have been deeply touched by the very generous and more than kind terms in which Your Excellency and Your Highnesses have been pleased to refer to me and I am deeply grateful for what has been said, for your kindness and for this vote of thanks which is placing me under a further debt of obligation to Your Highnesses.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** We will now proceed with the election of the Chancellor and Mr. Thompson, Political Secretary, will just inform you of the necessary details.

**The Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson** (Secretary, Chamber of Princes): Your Highnesses will find the voting papers on the desks in front of you. One name should be entered and one only and that must be the name of a Member and not of a Representative Member. And it is not necessary to sign the papers.

The election of the Chancellor was then proceeded with.

**The Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson** (Secretary, Chamber of Princes): The result of the voting as disclosed by the ballot is as follows:—

His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.

Their Highnesses the Maharao of Kutch and the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar tie for the third place.

It will therefore be necessary to have a second ballot as between Their Highnesses the Maharao of Cutch and the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar.

**The Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson** (Secretary, Chamber of Princes): The result of the voting is that His Highness the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar comes first and His Highness the Maharao of Cutch second.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** The result is that His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has duly been elected as Chancellor. His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar comes second and His Highness the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar third.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** With Your Excellency's permission I beg to thank Their Highnesses for the trust and confidence they have bestowed upon me. Of course it will be very difficult and in fact impossible for me to work the Chancellorship as well as my immediate predecessor and dear brother, His Highness of Bikaner, has done. I will try to do my best and be worthy of Their Highnesses' confidence. •

## Agendum No. 15.

### *Election of the Standing Committee.*

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** We will now proceed with the election of the Standing Committee.

**The Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson** (Secretary, Chamber of Princes): In this case Your Highnesses may vote for any number of members up to six, one vote for each. But there is no obligation to vote for more than one or only one but you cannot vote for more than six. They must be Members of the Chamber. The Chancellor is of course excluded.

**The Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson** (Secretary, Chamber of Princes): The following is the result of the ballot. The names are given in alphabetical order:—

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.

His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

His Highness the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur.

His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir.

His Highness the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar.

The Chief of Sangli.

**The Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson** (Secretary, Chamber of Princes): Your Highnesses; A group photograph of the President and Members of the Chamber of Princes attending the present Session will be taken to-morrow, the 29th of January, at the close of the meeting.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** I think that concludes our business to-day.

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The Chamber then adjourned till 11 A.M. the following day.



## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH DAY.

*January 29th, 1926.*

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With the exception of Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Bharatpur, Bijawar and Nawanager, the same Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present as on the first day.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; I beg to read the reply of the Princes to your Inaugural Address.

Your Excellency; It will, we trust, be appreciated that one of the drawbacks of replying to Your Excellency's Inaugural Address without receiving, in good time in advance, a copy of Your Excellency's speech is that during the session of the Chamber of Princes so little opportunity is forthcoming for adequately preparing our reply. In former days advance copies of the Viceroy's address were sent to us before the Session of the annual Princes' Conference; and that plan gave us time to frame our reply with the care and attention which such a subject demands. However, after the year 1917 this practice was discontinued; and in all subsequent sessions we have laboured under the disadvantage of having to prepare our reply in a very hurried manner in addition to attending to the work which the Chamber and its Committees naturally involve.

On this occasion, however, we have had an unusually strenuous time in that in addition to the actual work done each morning in the Chamber, we have had to sit almost daily at the important Informal Meetings which are a corollary to our Chamber work.

All this, coupled with the shortness of time which we have had this year in preparing our reply to Your Excellency's address—which, coinciding as it does with the termination of your Viceroyalty, is not only of considerable length but of unusual interest—precludes us from dealing in detail with the various important points and aspects contained in your speech, some of which after closer study will doubtless require our special attention on another occasion.

On this the last occasion when Your Excellency presides over the formal deliberations of our Chamber, an occasion which marks the termination of our close association, extending over a period of five years, we desire to assure Your Excellency that you will carry with you on your departure our heartiest good wishes for your happiness. We recognise how deeply we are indebted to Your Excellency for your various sympathetic assurances on various occasions regarding the sanctity and inviolability of our Treaties, Rights, Privileges, and Dignities.

We would also take this opportunity of offering our most sincere and hearty congratulations to Her Excellency the Countess of Reading and Your Excellency on the presence again in our midst of Her Excellency after the merciful recovery which Providence has been pleased to grant her. Her Excellency during your five years in India, as throughout the rest of your distinguished career, has been your unfailing comfort and your effective help-mate. Allude too we must, on this last occasion when we shall formally meet you in a body, to the noble achievement of Her Excellency in a cause that must irresistibly appeal to every true mother's heart, namely, Child Welfare—and, so alluding, pay our meed of appreciation of her enthusiastic and unremitting labours.

We have read with the greatest interest all that pertains to the Viceroy-elect, Lord Irwin of Kirby Underdale, and from all the accounts that we have received or read, we consider it a matter of hopeful augury that there will succeed Your Excellency another statesman who by his ability and work has at a comparatively young age risen to Cabinet rank in England. In offering him our good wishes for his Viceroyalty we would express the hope that he will leave his imprint on the History of India as a Viceroy as having further strengthened and cemented the ties that link the Princes and States



of India to His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor and the Empire and as having also similarly strengthened the ties which unite India to Great Britain.

In addition to the very important problems which he will have to deal with in regard to constitutional reform in British India, he will no doubt be faced with what to us is a most important and vital question, *viz.*, the future position of the Princes and States in the polity of India. This is a problem which, we have no doubt, has already occupied much of Your Excellency's thought and which obviously must call for earnest attention on the part of all concerned in the near future.

We greatly appreciate the sympathetic and generous references which Your Excellency made in your inaugural address to the great loss sustained by our Order and by this Chamber through the death of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and the Maharaja of Kashmir. The resolution of condolence and sympathy passed, and the warm references made and the respectful tributes paid, in this Chamber to Their late Highnesses' memory need no recapitulation here. But we desire to take this opportunity of giving expression to our gratification at the policy of non-interference pursued by Your Excellency in accordance with the Government of India Resolution in regard to Minorities and in accordance, we understand, with the wishes of the late Maharaja Scindia by which the Advisory Council has been converted into the Council of Administration in Gwalior.

Your Excellency, we also much appreciate the great courtesy which you have always extended to us and thank you warmly for the graceful references you have made to your association with the Princes and States of India and with this Chamber; and in bidding you a united farewell we offer to Your Excellency and to Her Excellency Lady Reading our warmest good wishes for the future. We hope that you may both be spared for a great many years to be a source of happiness to your family and friends and to render still further valuable services to the Empire which is proud to claim you as one of its most prominent citizens.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency; This completes the business on the Agenda of this Session of the Chamber and also the Princes' reply to Your Excellency's Inaugural Address, which His late Highness the Maharaja Scindia read on the last six occasions and I need hardly add how honoured I feel at Their Highnesses having elected me to read it on their behalf this year. And now in view of the exceptional and sad circumstances attaching to the present occasion, namely, the impending severance of Your Excellency's direct connection with India and with the Indian Princes and States, I trust that I may be allowed in my personal capacity to say a few words in regard to Her Excellency Lady Reading and Your Excellency. This will be in accordance with what, on the point being raised, was proposed at our Standing Committee in Simla last September, namely, that opportunity would be provided on the last day of this Session for references to be made by any Princes wishing particularly to do so to the impending departure of Your Excellency and that such speeches would be made after the formal reply had been read on behalf of the Princes.

I have had the pleasure and the privilege of Your Excellency's acquaintance, and I trust I may also claim personal friendship, which dates back to a time prior to your appointment as Viceroy of India. We were brought together during the Great War at the Imperial War Cabinet of 1917, and again prior to the Peace Conference both in London and in Paris.

It is not for me to speak of Your Excellency's work before you came out and of your great achievements. But, I trust, I shall be forgiven, if I refer to your great work during the War when you were our Ambassador in the United States. That was the time when I personally had the privilege of coming into personal contact with you, especially on those occasions. Your Excellency has, during your five momentous years of Viceroyalty, had to deal, so as British India and British Indian affairs are concerned, with as difficult, onerous and wearying a tenure of office as any responsible position having to do with large affairs and matters of high policy can involve.

anywhere in the highly complex and civilized world of to-day; and it must be a source of gratification to Your Excellency to feel that you are leaving things in a more satisfactory condition than you found them.

Of my personal indebtedness to Your Excellency for all your great kindness and support to me as Chancellor I have had similar opportunity of alluding to in the course of the last week, and in common with several other Princes, I shall retain the warmest personal memories of much courtesy and the most charming hospitality and kindness which I have invariably received at the hands of Your Excellency and of Her Excellency the Countess of Reading; and there are several amongst us to-day who will also cherish similar pleasant memories of the visits which Your Excellencies have paid to our States and of the sport which we have enjoyed together there. I had hoped that my State and I and we all in Bikaner would have had the honour of entertaining Your Excellencies once again at Bikaner before you went back to England at the conclusion of Your Excellency's Viceroyalty in April next. But, as I gathered from our conversation a couple of nights ago, that has now been rendered impossible to my great regret on account of the inevitable change of your plans due to Her Excellency's recent illness and operation which, I earnestly hope, has been successful for all time.

Great as is our disappointment at thus being deprived of the honour of yet another Viceregal visit to my State, we have every reason to feel devoutly thankful that Providence has restored Her Excellency to health and that she has been spared, as I am sure we all fervently hope, for many a long day to stand by you while you win fresh laurels in fields yet untrodden by your already far-travelled feet. It is not only because Lady Reading is the helpmate—and I feel sure Your Excellency will be the first to admit—the better-half of the Viceroy of India for the time being that we rejoice at Her Excellency's recovery. Our intense anxiety during the period of her recent illness—an anxiety which was shared in Bikaner by not only my family but my people—was as much due to the great kindness and goodness of heart of Lady Reading herself as to our great respect for her and for her work personally. The one thing which most of all impresses those who have had the honour of coming in close personal contact with Her Excellency is her most wonderful pluck and courage and her noble ideals of discharging adequately the duties and responsibilities which attach to her exalted position. All those who have come under Her Excellency's magnetic personality and who have had the privilege of being Your Excellency's guests and hers have been struck by the manner in which, as I said in Bikaner once, Her Excellency literally radiates cheerfulness. The example which she has set, when in ill-health and full of engagements and work, of sticking to her duty of cheering up her guests by kindly words and kindly remarks are things which we shall always associate with Her Excellency.

The time of bidding farewell, Sir, is fast approaching and though I hope, God willing, to be in Bombay to bid farewell in person to Your Excellencies, I would conclude by expressing the hope that you will always retain a soft corner in your heart for the Princes of India and, may I hope, for us in Bikaner, even when thousands of miles have separated us. That Your Excellencies have my very best wishes for your future health and happiness goes, I trust, without saying.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses; The reply to His Excellency's address which has just been read by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner on behalf of us all suitably embodies our collective feelings at the impending termination of His Excellency's official connection with our Chamber but in my individual capacity as a Member I crave permission to seize this opportunity of paying my personal tribute to the high statesmanship with which His Excellency has piloted the fortunes of this Chamber and to the sympathy and scrupulous regard with which he has watched over the interests of our Order and our States.

The achievements of his memorable Viceroyalty are many and varied, but two of the most notable with which this Chamber or our Order is intimately concerned are the reorganization of the Indian State Forces and the acceptance and practical operation of a fair and sound principle of

remission of tributes paid by a number of the Indian States. The spirit underlying this policy marks a new era in the relations of the British Government with the Indian States. It denotes a distinct and unmistakable gesture of trust and confidence and testifies, beyond the shadow of a doubt, to the desire of the Paramount Power to emphasize the complete identity of our mutual interests.

For this elevation of our mutual relations to a higher plane we are most profoundly grateful to His Majesty's Government and no less to His Excellency, without whose influential support and advocacy this remarkable development would not have been a *fait accompli*. Since my own State has fully benefited by the inauguration of this just and liberal policy, which has resulted in the total remission of its tribute, I cannot let this opportunity slip without personally expressing to Your Excellency the feelings of my abiding gratitude.

I am sure that even after Your Excellency's official connection with our Chamber and our Order is severed Your Excellency will, through the long and happy years that we hope may be vouchsafed to Her Excellency and to yourself at home, continue to take an interest in the future of the institution you have striven so much to inspire and invigorate and in the welfare of the Order the cause of which you have so assiduously promoted.

**The Chief of Sangli:** Your Excellency; I do not presume that I can pay an adequate tribute to Your Excellency for your great qualities of head and heart, and for your deep interest in the welfare of the Indian States—especially of the smaller ones. But I cannot let this occasion pass without expressing my sincere and respectful gratitude to Your Excellency for all the good that you have done to them, and for the help and support you have thoughtfully and graciously given them. There are very special reasons why, in bidding farewell to Your Excellency, the smaller States should seek to express their gratitude. The first thing for which they are deeply grateful to Your Excellency is your keen desire to elevate their position, and to respect their historic dignity, and to maintain their status at a worthy level. It is significant from the weighty and important utterances of Your Excellency that you fully recognise that the Princes are the friends and advisers of "His Majesty's Representative and of the Government of the Crown." Only a few short years ago, the Princes of India were shut out from the arena of international affairs; whereas now, they are chosen, year by year, to represent India in the great Council of the Nations, and to help in demonstrating the worthiness of India to be ranked as one of the greatest of those Nations. The ties of deep attachment and loyal devotion which bind the Princes of India to the Crown have been strengthened by Your Excellency's genuine sympathy and regard.

When Your Excellency leaves India you will take with you our sincere respect, as well as our admiration and gratitude. The work Your Excellency has begun is not finished. In a sense that can be said of any administrator, whose gift of foresight enables him to build on deep foundations, in order that posterity may enjoy the fruits of his labours. You have in a very peculiar sense worked for those who come after. Under Your Excellency the transfer of the States from the Provinces to direct relationship with the Central Government has made great progress, and fresh adjustment of relations has been made with a minimum of disturbance in order to fit in with the gradual growth of a new system of administration in British India. During such a period of change and flux there might, under less careful direction, have been reasons for apprehension. But Your Excellency, who said at the outset of your career in India that you had come to give justice, followed without deviation the line you had thus marked out for yourself. We know that full well, and cherish with the greatest regard Your Excellency's assurances about the sanctity of our Treaties, Engagements and Sanads.

The secret of Your Excellency's success as Viceroy of India lies in your great sagacity, tact and firmness. Speaking at the Guildhall Banquet on the occasion of the Lord Mayor's Show in November last, Mr. Baldwin paid a deservedly high compliment to Your Excellency in appreciating of

these qualities of yours. It is for the future historian to judge, the memorable and eventful career of Your Excellency, but it is our duty to appreciate and admire the valuable services rendered to the Empire by Your Excellency, who is, in the words of the poet, a—

“ Statesman, yet friend to truth, of soul sincere,  
In action faithful and in honour clear.”

We shall ever remember with gratitude the various acts of kindness and solicitude that Your Excellency and Her Excellency the Countess of Reading have done for us in your various capacities and spheres of life. Thank God, Her Excellency, who recently underwent a serious operation, has fully recovered and I offer once again my sincere congratulations to both, on Her Excellency's complete recovery. I need not mention here, as Your Excellency is already aware, how Her Excellency the Countess of Reading has endeared herself to all by her noble and philanthropic work for the suffering humanity in India. She will leave behind her not only the memory of her gracious presence, but, in the women of India Fund, which bears her name, a most valued means of assisting the building up of an adequate nursing service throughout the country. The women and children of India, in particular, have good reason to bless the name of Lady Reading. I offer to Your Excellency and your noble consort my humble tribute of admiration and pray the Almighty to bless you both with all happiness, prosperity and health. I conclude in the words of the poet—

“ The secret consciousness of duty well performed;  
The public voice of praise that honours virtue,  
And rewards it,  
All these are yours.”

**The Pant Sachiv of Bhor:** Your Excellency; Your Highnesses: As so many speakers who are better qualified for this function by age, experience and personal acquaintance with Your Excellency have exhausted the list of the qualifications and merits of Your Excellency both as an administrator and ruler as well as a private individual, nothing has been left to me to add except to say simply ‘ yes ’ to what my brother Princes have said about Your Excellency, with only one or two points that have struck me most while reviewing the most brilliant career of Your Excellency in India.

The task that was assigned to Your Excellency just at the advent of your career was awfully arduous. The hot atmosphere of this country was not quiet and peaceful. The new reforms were recently introduced and they were not accepted in the spirit in which they were given and so there was chaos everywhere. Naturally there was very little chance of co-operation which was so essentially necessary for the successful working of the reforms. Similarly the financial condition was far from satisfactory and it is needless to say that upon the sound condition of the finance the all-round progress and improvement of a country depends. These two great problems which were awaiting the advent of a masterful genius for their solution immediately received Your Excellency's quick attention just after your arrival here. And who will not now say with pleasure that they are well-nigh solved to the satisfaction of us all?

Also there are many other things like the agricultural development, administration of justice, industrial improvement and intellectual progress which also did not escape the wide range of Your Excellency's administration.

All of these subjects have received their due share of attention from your Government and it may be admitted with pride that they are carried a great way on the road to their consummation.

But above all these things I should like to mention one fact wherein lies, in my humble opinion, the real statesmanship and political wisdom of Your Excellency. During the short period of Your Excellency's Government in India, His Majesty's Government at home was changed thrice and every time there was a different party in power.

First there was a liberal party which made your appointment here. Then came the Labour Party and lastly there is now the Conservative. But

the wonder is that, during all these troubled times, both here and there, Your Excellency, securing confidence from different parties has remained here steady and firm without losing sight of the guiding principle with which Your Excellency had started your career here. This was not an easy task. Those who have got administrative knowledge and who have studied the constitutional history of England cannot but look without wonder at the wonderful political sagacity and masterful patience acquired by you in the legal profession at home and which you have brought into play in dealing with difficult problems here.

So while I am studying Your Excellency's administration, I am at a loss to know whom I should call 'the Great' whether Your Excellency for your masterful capacities and towering genius. or the late Mr. Montagu, the father of the democratic India, who had shown a wonderful tact of sounding and selecting the right man at the right position and at the right time. Leaving this problem for its solution to the historians of the future, I take Your Excellency's leave.

**The Nawab of Loharu:** Your Excellency and Your Highnesses; On this last occasion of Your Excellency presiding over the Chamber of Princes I desire to say that the idea of Your Excellency bidding farewell to the Chamber is saddening to us, saddening as Your Excellency exercised a fascinating influence on our hearts by your affability and charming manners. We realise that personal contact with the representative of the King-Emperor is conducive to that cordiality and respect which a highly gifted English nobleman invariably inspires.

We appreciate and value the generous solicitude for our welfare which is manifest from the policy which produced the Princes Protection Act, in guarding us against the malignant attacks of the Press. This act of justice coming from the once Lord High Justice of Great Britain will always be remembered not only by us present here to-day but also by our successors. Our gratitude to Your Excellency found ample expression on the occasion when speeches were made in the Chamber after the Act was passed.

Another feature of Your Excellency's fruitful term of office is that most of the Indian States were brought in direct political relations with Your Excellency's Government. This wise policy has greatly facilitated the conduct of political business between the States and the Supreme Government. We fully appreciate the advantages which have accrued from this new system. I venture to say that this will find a prominent mention in the history of the relations of the British Government with the Indian States.

Similarly another memorable event of Your Excellency's Viceroyalty is the exhibition of that wise statesmanship which saved India from a great disaster and which was bound to create trouble in the Indian States also. This was the storm of non-co-operation which burst with full fury in the beginning of Your Excellency's tenure of high office. With such high achievements Your Excellency will doubtless be remembered as one of the greatest Viceroys of India.

I cannot conclude my speech without mentioning the great humanitarian work which Her Excellency Lady Reading has done to alleviate human suffering. Such benevolence will always remain ingrained in the memory of the Indian people. Her Excellency will carry with her the gratitude and respect of this great country. Before I resume my seat I beg to say that I wish Your Excellency and Lady Reading every happiness in life.

**His Excellency the Viceroy:** Your Highnesses; I wish I had been able to foresee the observations which Your Highnesses have made to-day for in that case, instead of dissuading Her Excellency from adding to the duties of a busy week by being present here to-day, I would on the contrary have encouraged her to attend. I knew Your Highnesses desired to make reference to me as President of the Chamber and Viceroy: but if I had pondered more deeply, I should have perceived that with characteristic delicacy of thought and generosity of sentiment Your Highnesses would also desire to refer to Her Excellency and would conceive that any appreciation which you wished to express of me during my Viceroyalty would fail and fall short if you did not associate an appreciation of Her Excellency and of her work



with it. I thank you most warmly and gratefully for all that you have been good enough to say in regard to us both.

It has usually fallen to my lot to work in these spheres of public life where there must be inevitably some controversy. While Your Highnesses were speaking of Her Excellency's work I reflected how pleasant it must be as in her case to be engaged in activities concerning which no breath of controversy ever arises. This absence of controversy I must attribute in part to the forethought and care she directs to her beneficent projects and in part to the fact that in the objects of her activities she has chosen a sphere where she carries the heart and mind of India with her. Unfortunately for me the regime of politics admits of more room for dispute and controversy than the humanitarian spheres in which Her Excellency has been actively engaged.

I am afraid the kindly warmth of Your Highnesses' observations about me can scarcely be as vividly reflected in the cold print in which the historian in the future will record his impressions regarding my work in connection with this Chamber and otherwise. That would be too much to hope for; but nevertheless this thought has not detracted from the pleasure Your Highnesses have given me by your generous observations. His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner has asked me to retain a soft corner in my heart for the Chamber, the Princes and himself. Believe me—and I speak in deep sincerity—it is not only a corner of my heart that I shall keep for these most pleasant memories.

In the responsible position in which I am placed, it is not possible that in all affairs connected with the Princes and their Order I should have been able to agree with all that is put forward, nor do I think Your Highnesses can have expected this; but I have striven to the best of my ability to carry out the most important duty entrusted to the Viceroy of acting as the Representative of the King-Emperor in his relations with the Princes. The position which the Viceroy occupies in this respect is unique. In addition to the duties which pertain to his office as Head of the Government of India, he has this special function also entrusted to him of maintaining the relations between the Princes and the King-Emperor. I have striven to carry this out in the access which I have always given to the Princes and in the consideration of the affairs of individual States and of the affairs of more general concern which affect the Princes and States as a whole or their relations with the Government of India. As I have said, I have on occasions had to take some course, and may even yet in the short period awaiting me take some course, which may not be acceptable to all Your Highnesses; but I am confident that you have realised that I have never for a moment forgotten what is due to the Princes. I have held it to be my paramount duty to maintain their traditions; and I believe it will be recognised that the position of Princes, so far from having suffered in any way, has not only been upheld and maintained by me but has actually been more scrupulously regarded than heretofore.

When I leave India I shall have shed the mantle of direct responsibility; but I shall not cease to take an interest, because the responsibility for the results of actions continues even when he who acted has ceased to be present. Further the ties of acquaintance, sympathy and friendship will ever incline me to interest in the activities of the Princes. I shall live in hopes of renewing those ties when any of the Princes visit England. I shall expect to hear of the younger Princes beginning to take a prominent part in the proceedings of this Chamber and achieving reputations as eminent orators and wise counsellors. The older Princes who now enjoy these reputations, have earned them before my eyes and have nobly shown the way.

Let me thank Your Highnesses once more for your very kind words. I have been deeply touched by their kindly warmth and genuine sincerity, and now as President of this Chamber I will bid farewell to the Chamber. I shall no longer preside here; but I am confident that my successor will form the same conceptions of the Chamber and its work which have guided me and that he will be able to rely on receiving from Your Highnesses the same full measure of assistance and co-operation and the same wise counsel which you have extended to me and which has been my support during the five years of my Viceroyalty.

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**Resolutions passed by the Chamber of Princes (*Narendra Mandal*)  
during the session held at Delhi on the 25th January 1926 and  
following days.**

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*Resolutions passed by the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal) during the session held at Delhi on the 25th January 1926 and following days,*

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### Agendum No. 1.

*Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in connection with the death of Her late Majesty Queen Alexandra.*

*Resolved.*--That the Chamber of Princes records its profound sense of grief at the demise of Her Imperial Majesty Queen Alexandra whose revered memory will ever be cherished with grateful affection throughout India, and requests His Excellency the President to be so kind as to convey to Their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress its loyal and respectful condolence on this melancholy occasion and its deepest sympathies in the great affliction and the grievous loss which Their Imperial Majesties have sustained.

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### Agendum No. 1-A.

*Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in connection with the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and the Maharaja of Kashmir.*

*Resolved.* - That the Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow at the sad demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Kashmir and the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and deplores the loss sustained by the Ruling Princes of India by the passing away of two of their most distinguished Brother Princes. That the Chamber further offers its deepest sympathies and condolence to the bereaved Ruling families.

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### Agendum No. 2.

*Statement from His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala regarding his work as a representative of India at the meeting of the League of Nations in 1925.*

*Resolved.*--That the Chamber pass a hearty vote of thanks to His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, and offer him its warm congratulations on the manner in which he has acquitted himself on the historic occasion.

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### Agendum No. 3.

*Tours and visits abroad of Ruling Princes and Chiefs.*

*Resolved.*--That the Chamber of Princes accord general approval to the report of the Standing Committee on the subject.

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### Agendum No. 4.

*Radio broadcasting in British India and its application to Indian States.*

*Resolved.*--That the Chamber of Princes accord general approval to the report of the Standing Committee on the subject.

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### Agendum No. 5.

*Wireless telegraphy and telephony in Indian States.*

*Resolved.*--That the report of the Standing Committee on the subject be generally accepted by the Chamber.

### Agendum No. 6.

*Assessment of compensation for land required for railways in Indian States.*

*Resolved.*—That the Chamber of Princes accord general approval to the report of the Standing Committee on the subject.

### Agendum No. 7.

*Amendment of the First Regulations so as to exclude Jamnia and Nimkhera from the list of lesser States in Central India entitled to vote for a Representative Member in the Chamber of Princes.*

*Resolved.*—That the Chamber of Princes approve the report of the Standing Committee on the subject.

### Agendum No. 8.

*Amenament of Regulation 8 of the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members in the Chamber of Princes.*

*Resolved.*—That the Chamber of Princes approve the report of the Standing Committee on the subject.

### Agendum No. 9.

*Appointment of a Committee to consider\* (i) the best means of safeguarding the interests of Indian States in cases of enquiry into matters of common interest to British India and the States, and (ii) what machinery should be devised for giving effect to the proposal in paragraph 311 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report regarding joint deliberations.*

*Resolved.*—That a Committee be appointed consisting of Princes and Ministers to consider, in consultation with representatives of the British Government, and to report to the Chamber of Princes—

- (1) the best means of safeguarding the interests of the Indian States on occasions when an enquiry is undertaken into matters of common interest to the States and to British India, and
- (2) what machinery should be devised for giving effect to the proposal contained in paragraph 311 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report regarding joint deliberations.

The following Princes and Ministers were elected to serve on the Committee:—

#### *Princes.*

1. His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.
2. His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.
3. His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir.
4. His Highness the Maharaja of Nawanagar.
- 5 His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

#### *Ministers.*

6. One representative of the Mysore State.
7. Sir Manubhai Mehta of Baroda.
8. Colonel K. N. Haksar of Gwalior.
9. Sir Prabha Shankar Pattani of Bhavnagar.
10. Professor Rushbrook-Williams of Patiala.

### Agendum No. 10.

*Amendment of Rules 3 and 4 of the Rules for the conduct of business in the Chamber of Princes.*

*Resolved.*—That the Chamber of Princes do recommend to His Excellency the Viceroy that Rules 3 and 4 of the Rules for the conduct of business in the Chamber be so amended as to make it permissible for subjects to be included in, and for the circulation of, the Agenda of the Chamber respectively two months and six weeks before the meeting of the Chamber.

### Agendum No. 11.

*Relief from double income-tax to subjects of Indian States.*

*Resolved.*—That the matter be handed over to the Standing Committee for further discussion.

### Agendum No. 12.

*Provision of funds for the office of the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes and other incidental expenditure.*

*Resolved.*—That, as no suitable machinery exists for maintaining the office and staff of the Chancellor to the Narendra Mandal and for other incidental expenses, and, as it is necessary in the interests of the work of the Mandal that due provision should be made forthwith, the Narendra Mandal resolves (a) that all Members of the Mandal should subscribe Rs. 800 individually and annually for three years and (b) that, in the case of Representative Members, the amount should be made up by contributions from the States represented by each. The scale of contributions by Members and Representative Members should be open to reconsideration at the end of three years in the light of experience then acquired.

### Agendum No. 13.

*Election of the Chancellor.*

*Resolved.*—That, according to the largest number of votes, His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala be elected as Chancellor and His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar elected for the second place.

### Agendum No. 14.

*Election of the Standing Committee.*

*Resolved.*—That the following Princes be elected as Members of the Standing Committee:—

1. His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.
2. His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.
3. His Highness the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur.
4. His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir.
5. His Highness the Maharaja of Nawanagar.
6. The Chief of Sangli.





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